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ABSTRACT

The symposium examined the impact of poverty and environmental degradation on women and children and assessed women's real and potential contributions to sustainable development through their knowledge of natural resources. Participants included experts and resource people involved in grassroots activities throughout the world. This report summarizes the opening ceremony of the symposium; states general principles and recommendations adopted by the symposium; and discusses information presented at the symposium. Working groups and the plenary session made recommendations concerning women and the environment. The first working group addressed topics of land resources, resource management and conservation, and deforestation. The second considered freshwater resources, energy, and toxic chemicals. The use of legal instruments and institutions was studied by the third working group. Topics addressed by the plenary session included: (1) poverty and environmental degradation; (2) financial resources; (3) public awareness; (4) health; (5) effects of technology; (6) urban and rural settlements; (7) demographic pressures; (8) media and communications; and (9) popular participation. The symposium produced a "vision statement" on women, children, and nature. Appended materials include the symposium agenda; abstracts of papers and case studies presented at the symposium; and a list of symposium participants. (BC)

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UNITED NATIONS
EARTH SUMMIT '92

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST

Report of the UNCED/UNICEF/UNFPA Symposium
on Poverty and Environmental Degradation

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

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"Women and Children First"

Report of the **UNCED/UNICEF/UNFPA** symposium on the impact of Poverty and Environmental Degradation on Women and Children, Geneva, 27-30 May 1991

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REPORT OF THE UNCED/UNICEF/UNFPA SYMPOSIUM ON POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION ENTITLED "WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST", GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 27-30 MAY 1991

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PART I

INTRODUCTION

1. General Assembly Resolution 44/228 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development calls inter alia for the "improvement of the living and working conditions of the poor in urban slums rural areas" and promotion of "the development of human resources". This was further elaborated in Decision 1/25 of the first Preparatory Committee meeting on the interrelationship between Environment and Development, which requests inter alia an "examination of the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation". A general introductory paper on the subject was presented at the Second Preparatory Committee meeting in Geneva in the document on Poverty and Environmental Degradation (A/CONF.151/PC/15). Closely related activities on human settlements, health conditions and the quality of life are contained in Decision 1/28 of the First Preparatory Committee meeting and in decision (A/CONF.151/PC/L.36) of the Second Preparatory Committee meeting on cross cultural issues.

2. Based on these mandates, an UNCED/UNICEF/UNFPA symposium entitled "Women and Children First" was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 27 to 30 May. The symposium examined the impact of poverty and environmental degradation on women and children and assessed their real and potential contributions to sustainable development, with a view towards Agenda 21 and The Earth Charter. Participants included experts and resource people involved in grassroots activities and represented a broad spectrum from all geographical areas, the majority being women from developing countries. Representatives from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the UN system also attended.

3. Within the last six years, the international community has endorsed guidelines for action which already contain commitments to women's and children's issues as they relate to poverty and environmental degradation. The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women adopted a Plan of Action in 1985 that includes 'Environment' and that addresses the needs of vulnerable groups of women, including 'women in areas affected by drought', 'urban poor women', 'destitute women', 'women deprived of their traditional means of livelihood' and 'women who are the sole supporters of their families'. Environmental degradation is viewed as a contributing factor to deplorable conditions endured by many women, particularly women who are deprived of their traditional means of livelihood. The World Declaration and the Plan of Action from the 1990 World Summit for Children First Call for Children deals with specific actions for child survival, protection and development, and includes a section on Children and the Environment. It states: "Children have the greatest stake in the preservation of the environment and its judicious management for sustainable development as their survival and development depends on it".

4. Mr Maurice Strong, Secretary General of UNCED and Mr James Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF addressed the symposium and had extensive discussions with the participants, pledging their commitment to the topic of the symposium and emphasizing its importance for UNCED.

5. The symposium was people-centred and action-oriented. It identified potential areas for action and strategies to better integrate the needs, concerns, aspirations and perspectives of women and children in approaches and measures aimed both at eliminating poverty and environmental degradation and strengthening their central participation in promoting sustainable development.

6. This report contains a brief summary of the opening ceremony of the symposium, a statement of general principles and recommendations which was formally adopted by the meeting, specific recommendations to be considered by each of the UNCED working groups and the UNCED plenary, a vision statement elements of a draft decision for consideration at UNCED itself and possible inclusion in The Earth Charter and Agenda 21.

A. OPENING CEREMONY

7. Ms Filomina Chioma Steady, UNCED's Special Advisor on Women in Environment and Development, introduced the symposium by stressing the historic importance of this meeting for the UNCED process since it is the first initiative that aims to look at women and children from the point of view of their real and potential contributions to sustainable development, and also to assess the impact of poverty and environmental degradation on them. She also stressed the importance of identifying specific areas of concern and developing multidimensional approaches to addressing problems of environment and development as they relate to women and children. She pointed out that the division of labour by gender and age still determines how natural resources are used and allocated. Marginalization of women is, therefore, an important indicator of unsustainable development and consideration of gender issues is essential to ensure that development is given as much emphasis as environment in the UNCED process. She noted the crucial role of women and children in sustaining the physical and natural environment. This reality makes them managers of natural resources and increases their dependence on these resources for their livelihood and that of their families. This fundamental role has often been neglected in development strategies. Even when attempts have been made to integrate women into development, such efforts have not always been effective in making essential changes to mainstream development initiatives.

8. Women and children remain on the periphery at every stage of decision making processes. Stressing that women and children should be central to any analysis of the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation, Ms Steady outlined the objectives of the symposium:

a. To provide an opportunity for experts and resource persons involved in grassroots activities to review and to analyze the impact of poverty and environmental degradation on women and children, and their contributions to sustainable development, with a view towards Agenda 21.

b. To identify and suggest guidelines for developing new strategies towards sustainable and equitable development.

c. To identify specific strategies which would bring about greater understanding about the complex interrelationship between environment and development, especially related to women's interests and roles in achieving in sustainable development.

d. To identify potential actions that would increase women's participation as decision-makers, planners and managers of natural resources.

e. To identify means of informing people in development arena about the need to give priority in their work to the impact of the environment on women and children and to design policies, plans, programmes and projects accordingly.

9. Ms R Padmini, Chief, Urban Affairs, UNICEF, also stressed the importance of women and children as both actors and victims. The role of children, who depend on the state of the environment for their very survival, is particularly unrecognized she said. Children themselves can be encouraged to participate and be stimulated to greater awareness. The activities of UNICEF in the past have focused upon the protection of the environment through water and sanitation, health, education, household fuel improvements and household food security. Increasingly these activities are important in the urban areas also. In all actions rural and, increasingly, urban components are important. Action at the community level has brought significant improvements and has been fuelled largely by women working in small community groups. She gave several examples of successful advocacy among local populations.

10. Affluence, like poverty, can be a major cause of environmental degradation. Attitudes and lifestyles must change and development must have a more "human face". There must be more emphasis on the micro environment where women and children, in particular, are responsible for meeting daily needs.

11. Mr Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of UNCED, in addressing the symposium, noted that there is new understanding about and receptivity towards women's desire for real integration in environmental and development programmes. The process of UNCED is not isolated. Rather it is designed to focus upon and to mobilize around a set of issues, drawing upon insights and experience of governments and NGOs.

12. Earth Summit 1992 will have participation by heads of state and governments. Such an opportunity is rare and inputs are needed from this group (Symposium participants) to give new energy, support and impetus to actions that address significant and lingering issues. UNCED must be prepared to introduce changes in the production, distribution and consumption of natural resources. At present there is a lack of political commitment and cultural attuning on questions related to the impact of poverty and environmental degradation on women and children.

13. The twin processes of poverty and environmental degradation are among the greatest causes of misery in the world. They are not confined to developing countries only, but are also found among the underprivileged in developed countries. UNCED presents a unique opportunity to marshall resources and to focus attention on these issues. We can aim at implementation at two levels, he stated: first, in participation in UNCED; the second, by raising consciousness globally.

14. Many examples of women taking direct action and providing leadership can be found. Yet, despite these facts, too few issues on the United Nations agenda involve women and children. UNCED is a high point in a continuing effort to make leaders more accountable and to draw upon the skills, views and experiences of women. Many institutions, including NGOs, will "feed into" this process, thus providing additional analytical and problem-solving resources that can shape implementation at international, regional, national and local levels.

15. Mr Hans Wagener, the representative from UNFPA, started by noting that although it is usual for women and children to be first in view of their numerical and social value, society has made it difficult for the majority of women and children to cope with their day-to-day practical needs. He also indicated that solutions for both the poverty of individuals and the poverty of nations seem illusive. Balancing these resources and population dynamics becomes critical because increasing numbers of human beings remain underprivileged and

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vulnerable. He stressed the need to change behaviour so that physical resources can be made available to women along with education, health services, etc since women act as de facto environmental managers and providers for themselves and their children. Finally, he expressed the extreme value of children for sustainable development by quoting Wordsworth: "The child is the father to the man."

16. **Mr James Grant**, Executive Director of UNICEF, speaking at a later stage of the Symposium, reminded those present that none of the basic changes needed to improve the quality of life have come without tremendous community participation. As an example, he noted that the revolutionary breakthrough in vaccination of children during the last five years was largely achieved by community-level mobilization, especially by women.

17. He described the gap between readily available knowledge and its use as one of the worst obscenities today. We have a tremendous stake in the success of the Earth Summit 1992, he said. This will be the first gathering of leaders from all over the world to consider the issue of environmental degradation. He stressed that a vital issue for the success or failure of UNCED 1992 will be determined by the extent to which nations are prepared to quantify goals so that they may be held accountable. He stressed the centrality of women and children to the UNCED process and noted that one of the goals of the Children's Summit was that "children should have the first call on the resources of society". He recommended a similar approach to UNCED with regard to women and children.

18. Joan Martin-Brown, Special Advisor to the UNEP Executive Director and Chief, UNEP Washington Office, in her statement, read by Frances Barron, stressed the importance of connecting the impact of environmental degradation and poverty to women and children, as the essential point of departure in considering issues presented in the future to UNCED.

B. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Definitions

19. The definition of "environment" must be expanded beyond technical or scientific concerns to focus on people first, and to encompass quality of life issues. These include community and family survival, health of women and children, income security, equitable resource allocation and the guarantee of basic rights. This would give a common frame of reference which would take into account the interrelations among people, ecological survival and economic issues.

20. We accept the basic definition of "development" as proposed by the Bruntland Commission: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." In emphasizing the human aspects of development, and focusing natural resource management on resource users, rather than resources, we further define that development is inherently participatory. Development refers to increasing the capacity that people have to use resources to determine the shape of their own lives. Benefits cannot just be assumed to follow from participation, but need to be carefully assessed and guaranteed.

21. We define poverty as "that process which deprives people, particularly women and children, of the basic means for attaining sustainable livelihoods, and that undermines their physical, cultural and spiritual well-being."

The Nature and Scope of the Problem

22. These important deliberations are taking place against a backdrop of complicated international economic interactions, including burgeoning national debt, structural adjustment programs, constricted budgetary options at local, regional , national and international levels and changing emphases among donor agencies, multilateral institutions and governments. At the international level, the "vocabulary" of environmental and development concerns is undergoing a radical transformation, consistent with discarding outmoded or discredited development or environmental schemes and approaches.

23. Environmental degradation affects both urban and rural areas with severe negative impact on both. Indices of poverty and maternal, infant and child morbidity or mortality are very severe in blighted urban or peri-urban contexts where population concentrations are very high. In rural areas, lack of access to health care and formal reporting systems means that an accurate assessment of problems is still not possible, but it is clear that rural populations also suffer when the environment is eroded.

24. Particular groups face significant environmental and development pressures, such as indigenous and nomadic peoples; environmental, economic, political and other refugees; and the indigent, slum dwellers or working poor. Refugee populations are growing and their impacts on hosting environments rightfully engender significant concerns and require ever-increasing resource commitments. At the same time, refugees often are pressed into environmental circumstances that cannot sustain a decent quality of life, health or income security. Marginalized and isolated from home and culture, often predominantly women and children, refugees present a special and urgent case for concerted action in both the development and environmental contexts.

25. We assert that children have an absolute right to a healthy environment, recognizing that they will be most affected in the future by problems created now. Children's health and safety is not just a women's issue, but must engage the full attention and support of adults of both genders. The present death rate of children--40,000/day, largely from preventable causes and the over 150 million children who live on with ill health and poor growth--are unacceptable consequences of flawed development and environmental policies and a stark and negative commentary on our respective national and international priorities.

26. We call for a recognition of the unique health problems faced by women and children due to unclean water, unsanitary household or community environments, depleted energy sources, land degradation, environmental pollutants, toxic waste disposal, toxic chemical use and other unsound practices that are preventable.

27. We recognize the impact of population pressures on both the environment and development processes, but reject the notion that women's fertility is a primary cause of environmental degradation. Instead, we believe that access to family planning services and information is an important right for women and crucial to the health and well-being of women and children. We also affirm the rights of women to free choice in all decisions relative to their bodies and their health. In many parts of the world, it is not the number of people, but how they consume resources and relate to their environment, that is paramount.

The Need for Alternative Approaches

28. Poor people are not the primary cause of environmental degradation. Rather, they are most often the victims, and their disenfranchisement and lack of voice in policy-making and implementation means that their vulnerability is heightened.

29. We argue for a reversal of presumptions in the debate. We insist that this important Earth Summit in Brazil should focus more on resource users--human beings--rather than just on resources alone. In this context, women must be recognized as key agents of change. Because they are not consulted, their legitimate and overriding concerns are viewed as "problems", whereas with consultation women would take their rightful place as "actors" in the interrelated and complex considerations of intersections between development and environmental policies.

30. A multi-sectoral approach in analysis, policy formulation and implementation is essential. In the processes to come, lessons learned from other development and environmental programs, community mobilization activities and public education campaigns should be applied.

31. A "technology transfer" should occur in both directions. Organizations and individuals should share successful models and local learning with policy makers and other similarly situated peoples, while policy-makers should facilitate access to and allocate more resources, relying on participatory decision-making processes.

32. Environment and development education, supported by outreach and public education campaigns should draw upon techniques used successfully in the past. Examples of efforts to increase public awareness of the benefits of universal child immunization, family planning or oral rehydration therapy; the perils of AIDS and smoking; the importance of literacy and political participation can be drawn upon. Public education initiatives should involve all media, and should be sensitive to local languages, cultures and conditions. These activities must stimulate more sensitivity to, and involvement in, development and environmental activities by women and children.

The Role of Resource Users

33. We call for a recognition of the actual contributions of women in environmental protection and development, especially their role as protectors and managers of fragile natural resources. We call for greater opportunities for women in professional occupations that impinge upon both areas, and for new public education activities on development and the environment that foster public awareness, more environmentally sound actions and values, and that acknowledge women's positive contributions.

34. Children also can participate in improving their own living conditions, safety and future prospects without being exploited or robbed of educational opportunities, or being morally or physically endangered. We should make environmental education a living reality. Children can learn from small-scale agriculture, reforestation, community sanitation and health and environmental awareness programs. UNCED also should recognize the contributions that children and youth already are making to these efforts.

35. Indigenous and local knowledge, approaches and practices must be respected as potential solutions for environmental degradation and as major aspects of development strategies. Therefore, indigenous peoples should be represented in all activities leading to and following after Brazil, 1992 and Agenda 21.

The Role of Policy Makers

36. Recommendations emanating from this and all meetings preparatory to and culminating in a plan of action from Brazil, 1992 and Agenda 21 must result in more manageable interventions that strengthen community involvement and commitment to environmentally sound development.

37. At the same time, governments at all levels must recognize that rights to a safe environment, health, shelter, adequate and safe energy sources, income security, prudent management of fragile resources and genuine participation in and influence on decision-making, regardless of gender, race or ethnicity are fundamental human rights. Governments must take necessary actions without compromising these rights. In coping with scarcity or depletion of assets and resources, they must make decisions that support basic services and rights, protect the most vulnerable (especially children and youth) and allocate benefits and risks equitably. Development activities, like those concerning the environment, must put people at the centre.

38. Creation of new environmental protection and development strategies--at the most basic levels at which people live and work, in villages and communities--must incorporate development imperatives and family security needs with environmentally sound approaches. Community control in problem-solving is imperative, and approaches should, wherever possible, be preventive versus curative; use renewable local resources; rely upon low-cost or cost-effective measures; and be based upon technologies appropriate to community cultures, knowledge and conditions. Strategies also must be created in partnership with persons who are not normally participants in environmental or development decision-making: poor persons who are most adversely affected by environmental degradation, women and NGOs that work for their interests and for the well-being of children.

The Role of the International Community

39. We strongly urge that all UN agencies support innovative new approaches and initiatives that facilitate home-centred, cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary, local grassroots and regional environmental and development projects managed and directed toward women, the poor, children and groups with special needs.

40. Strengthened mandates and additional resources should be given to UN agencies that have funding facilities and capabilities to address these important concerns. In addition, agencies should use existing resources in ways consistent with these principles, and with the awareness of the importance of women and children in the environmental and development arenas. Finally, agencies should increase the number of women managers and leaders of intra-agency foci as an integral part of this effort.

41. We recognize that UNIFEM (women) and UNICEF (children), in addition to other UN agencies, already have important funding facilities and mandates that focus on the needs of women and children relevant to both the environment and development and should receive substantially increased funding to ensure their realization. UN agencies, particularly UNEP (environment) and UNDP (development) should structure programmes based upon these principles.

42. Finally, we are certain that the UNCED processes will result in increased attention to, and resources for, positive and global environmental and development initiatives. We urge UNCED and participants in its processes to insist that women, children, the poor and other groups with special needs receive substantially more resources and attention than is now the case, and that all resource decisions following on the UNCED processes fully integrate this principle in the design of resource allocation schemes, mandates and programmatic recommendations. UNCED should advocate the same approaches for allocation of increased resources by governments at all levels, other multilateral and private institutions and private industry.

43. These principles and their inherent recommendations must be premised on a respect for, and application of, fundamental human and legal rights for all peoples. In particular, women and children who, in many systems, are victimized by legal precepts, statutes and practices that deny or curtail fundamental human rights, must be protected. Governments, the United Nations agencies, other multilateral and private institutions or companies must be held accountable for protecting the environment and for ensuring equitable allocations of resources and development. Those who pollute the environment must also face the consequences of their actions and must be required to take all appropriate measures to end the pollution or degradation and to repair the damage done to the health, safety and future options of all peoples.

44. We recognize that most organizations managed by women, community groups, the poor and those who are interested in the rights and welfare of children are, themselves, hampered by fragile human and material resource bases. Through the UNCED conference activities and related processes, we call upon international donor agencies, multilateral institutions, private foundations and governments to assist in enhancing the capabilities of existing indigenous and grassroots women's or community groups. With enhanced capability, they can assist in identifying environmental or development pressures, and assist in formulating and implementing solutions.

Priority Areas

45. We therefore urge a new coalition that unites peoples and both genders in decision-making about the directions of development and environmental preservation for ourselves and our children. We support the multi-sectoral approaches as outlined by UNCED with additional categories added to our recommendations. We are particularly supportive of multi-sectoral approaches that establish linkages inter alia the following priority areas with reference to women and children.

- health
- consumption patterns
- resource allocation
- policy formulation at international, regional and national levels
- environment and development education
- utilization of indigenous and local learning about proper conservation techniques
- food security
- shelter
- energy resources
- water
- access to training and education, leading to employment and income generation
- reinvestment in community processes and organizations

- land and tree tenure and use rights
- impact of pesticides, toxic chemicals, industrial wastes
- environmental sanitation
- urban-rural migration patterns
- loss of fragile vital ecosystems, and subsequent disruption of the food chain, forestry resources and water

C. WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Basis for concern

46. Women and children together constitute the vast majority of the population on planet Earth. Sustainable development will therefore not be possible without their central and beneficial participation, and the incorporation of their needs, concerns, aspirations and perspectives in all sectors and at all levels of the political process.

47. In focusing on people, adequate consideration must be given to human diversity, taking into account not just socio-economic and cultural differences, but also those of gender and age. In all human societies, gender and age are basic criteria for social divisions of labour and social divisions of resources.

48. The participants have noted with concern the under-representation of women in critical processes surrounding the UNCED preparatory work for the 1992 Earth Summit on environment and development. For example, gender concerns are mentioned in only four of the priority areas slated for deliberation by UNCED. Lack of participation of women in delegations to Preparatory Committee meetings and in other relevant meetings, technical groups or deliberative bodies increase the risk that legitimate concerns of women and children will not surface in the important exchanges of views, policy formulation and action programmes that are to come.

49. We are reminded of an African proverb: "Until the lions ["lionesses"] have their historians, tales of hunting will always glorify the hunter." Likewise, until all women--those at the margins and those in the middle--are beneficially integrated into the policy-making and policy implementation at local, national, regional and international levels, solutions that are "recommended" or formulated will always miss the point, be misconceived, misperceived and incapable of being sustained.

Why Women and Children

50. Women and children are, at once, protectors and managers of natural resources and those most vulnerable to environmental hazards, degradation and waste. For example, in many developing countries, women are responsible for more than 80% of the food production and subsistence fuel supply. Children, particularly girls, may be involved in helping from a very early age. Women and their children plant, cultivate, harvest and market crops which make the difference between survival and starvation for their families and communities.

51. It is well documented that women and children face substantial risks from environmental degradation and faltering economic development all over the world. Day by day, their lives are threatened and compromised by poverty, marginalization, ill-health, exclusion from decision-making and systems that negatively affect the quality and prospects of their lives.

52. Women are 1/3 of the world's labour force, yet perform 2/3 of the world's working hours. Women head 1/3 of the world's households often without family or adequate economic support. Women are 600 million out of the 800 million illiterates throughout the world. They earn only one-tenth of the world's income and only own one per cent of the world's property, yet their contributions to major sectors of the formal and informal economies of all countries are well-known and well-documented.

53. In many countries, women and their children lack adequate access to health care, proper nutrition, education and employment. In Africa and Asia 500,000 women a year die from pregnancy, childbirth or its after-effects. They leave behind, each year, over one million motherless children. Unemployment among women is increasing at a higher rate than for men in developed and developing countries alike, and, in general, women make up a disproportionately higher number of the world's poor.

54. Children, too, suffer disproportionately. An estimated 2/3 of the world's absolute poor are children under fifteen. A quiet catastrophe ends millions of lives with potential: 40,000 children die each year from ordinary malnutrition, diseases and other preventable conditions. An estimated 150 million children live on with ill health and stunted growth. More than 100 million children aged six to eleven, are not in school, and many millions of others leave school early for the labour force or face substandard educational options.

55. Women and children live in both urban and rural settings--making economic contributions to and coping with stresses and resource degradation in both. Increased poverty, lack of access to resources and lack of participation characterize their lives and limit their horizons and future prospects.

56. In addition, more than one-third of the world's households are today headed by females and even when they are not sole supporters of families, they are primary supporters in terms of work. Female headed households are over-represented among poor housenolds.

The Relationship Between Poverty and Environmental Degradation and the Ways in Which Women and Children are Affected

57. The UNICEF report, prepared for the symposium and presented by a UNICEF representative, reminded us that both the Bruntland Report and GA Resolution 42/186 identify mass poverty as one of the main causes of environmental degradation. It was stated that those who are incapable of providing the basic necessities of life for their children cannot be expected to care for the environment. People who are poor or hungry will deplete their immediate environment in order to survive - "poor people pollute out of need, not out of greed".

58. Poverty makes people and especially women and children, particularly vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation. It can render them helpless in the face of the deterioration of the environment upon which they depend for their physical and mental well being.

59. Approximately 60% of the world's population are children under 15 years old and half of the world is female. A look at health statistics indicates trends towards maladaptation of populations and downward spirals as environmental degradation increases. In all cases the poor are among the most vulnerable, and in most cases the poor are women and children.

60. At the national level, poor nations may lack the standards and enforcement which are necessary to control pollution from industrial development.

61. At the level of the individual, the poor in particular suffer because they have fewer choices. Land, for instance, is an asset which is especially beneficial to the poor. When land is environmentally degraded by deforestation, erosion or contamination the poor, for whom it may have been the only resource, are deprived of the ability to feed and support themselves, and of ensuring social stability. This may in turn lead to migration to urban areas and the attendant problems.

62. In addition, the poor often have unequal access to clean and adequate water and may be forced to live close to landfill and disposal sites or equally undesirable areas.

63. The poor may also be vulnerable because they are illiterate and without access to information which may enable them to combat the effects of environmental degradation.

Women as Natural Resource Managers and Repositories of Traditional Knowledge

64. Case studies presented many examples of women, often local and indigenous women, who over several generations have built an extensive knowledge of the environment in wnich they live. They have developed their own ways of managing natural resources. Their perspectives are often multi-dimensional and multi-functional. The example was given of the way in which a women sees a forest: a forest will supply timber but also be important for water and soil conservation and the supply of essential materials.

65. The role of women and children in sustaining biodiversity is essential. One study presented showed how women and children contribute to the management of the surrounding forests, cattle and agricultural lands. They carry biomass between the different components of the system, have an extensive knowledge of species and varieties and play a crucial role in seed selection. In this and many other more traditional villages in which external influences were still limited, the social divisions of labour tend to be less prevalent than elsewhere.

66. Many indigenous communities continue to farm on a small scale using methods which have been handed down from generation to generation. They are able while so doing to provide food security, maintain land and water resources and conserve biodiversity. Biodiversity is not merely an issue of wildlife management; it is for these people part of their resource base.

67. One participant, who has worked with indigenous women in local subsistence projects, stated that these women so often have valuable knowledge and skills which they put to work in their daily lives, but which are often trivialized by others, sometimes even by themselves, because the dominant culture does not value this knowledge. Another noted that the relationship of land and people among the indigenous Indian tribes of the Americas is very different than for others. For indigenous people, land is part of the circle of life and this is carried through even in their naming traditions. Social relations and social systems determine land responsibilities, and the environment is their home. These are culturally persistent peoples, and have collectively combated colonialism, patriarchal societies, wars, materialism etc, and while managing to increase their populations against great odds.

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Impact of Development Strategies on the Environment, Women and Children

68. Case studies that were presented, documented a number of effects of development strategies on the environment, women and children.

a. 'Mal-development' - a term that was often used--was defined as 'development gone wrong'. Development theory and practice are often alien imports based on unsustainable consumption patterns, unequal, unchecked and unaccountable access to natural resources. Development programming is compartmentalized, as distinct from the integrated, holistic, yet localized perceptions of those populations which the programmes are supposed to benefit.

The case study of the Senegal River Basin Dam project is an example of how so-called development can lead to a conflict of interest and shows how the local population can become victims.

In some instances, measures introduced may be inadequate or catastrophic because they are not based on feasibility studies, do not involve local populations, or have not taken long term effects into account. When 'mal-development' is added to bad resource management, negative results are compounded.

b. Local effects of decisions taken by the international community: All too often, decision and action by international development agents have negative effects on local populations. For instance, one participant said that an international programme on watershed management in the Himalayan forest, is making it difficult for women to plant trees. 80% of the funding goes to big corporations instead of to programmes which genuinely seek to help those at the grassroots level. Described as "foreclosure to enclosures" the new technologies and projects are not planned with the well-being of women and children, especially the underprivileged, in mind.

Other examples are the Tropical Forestry Action Plan which has undermined forestry options of women and children in most countries where it has become operational because it has neglected their needs in its design and implementation. It does not consider how women or children use forest resources, participate in forest activities or suffer disproportionately from deforestation.

c. Small island states: Small island states are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation because of the delicate ecosystem balance and the rapid ripple effects that environmental degradation has on quality of life for human beings. Minimal deforestation can have an immediate impact on the environment, rivers, seas and water supply. Marine pollution easily erodes the fish and coral base. Island states are a microcosm of larger processes at work. Examples were presented from the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Small states, on the whole, lack the ability to solve problems on their own because they do not have the resources for either prevention or clean up activities. They may also lack the rules and regulations and the necessary enforcement apparatus for prevention of toxic chemical and hazardous waste dumping from abroad.

International aid agencies and local planners need to understand the special conditions of the Pacific and other island nations--huge distances, scattered communities and islands, fragile and unique ecosystems, lack of

resources, traditional societies and cultures. They should develop and apply technological solutions from different geographical and environmental settings, instead of importing inappropriate technologies and programmes.

d. Unilinear population control: Concern was expressed over the way that the population issue has been discussed and is increasingly being formulated today. It was felt that while the so-called 'population explosion' can lead to environmental problems, it should not be isolated and targeted as the sole cause of problems with no consideration to other factors, like health or lack of access to resources. Solutions should not only target female fertility; a distinction should be made between family planning and population control. The population control issue should be treated together with the problem of overconsumption, which is more common in developed, versus developing, countries.

e. Consumption patterns: Concern was expressed that the prevailing industrial growth model of development which is oriented towards extensive exploitation of natural resources, excessive profit and escalating consumption patterns, is environmentally unsound and cannot be sustained, even in rich countries. It will not only lead to more ecological destruction but also to more inequality and poverty which will undoubtedly affect women and children FIRST.

Their survival base will be destroyed as well as their access to commons: land, water, air, forests, their communities and their culture. Women, as consumers, have a great potential to act in reducing excessive consumption patterns and redefining what constitutes the "good life".

f. Effects of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste contamination: Benefits of the development process may be diminished by the environmental degradation caused when toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes are improperly managed and disposed of. Those most often affected are the poor, women and children. The harmful effects of toxic chemicals are widespread even in developed countries where pesticides and other toxic chemicals are intensively used in areas with high concentration of migrant female labour. Evidence was presented of the association between pesticide exposure and chronic health effects in humans such as leukaemia, brain and birth defects in children; lymphoma, lung and other cancers in farmers, and sterility, miscarriage as well as long term effects on the nervous system of the woman.

g. Urbanization: Migration from rural areas may be involuntary, caused by a number of complex factors. Traditional patterns of land tenure, for instance, may have been destroyed by detribalization. Rapid urban growth will undermine the resource base in both rural and urban areas. It will also exacerbate pressures on natural resources, create major settlement problems and increase the spread of slums, poverty, misery and human suffering.

Degradation of land may force people to migrate. Yet, even after migrating, they often are no better off. Refugees "squat" but conservation measures are not practised in squatters settlements. There is no infrastructure to provide water or sanitation. The surrounding environment can be destroyed by ensuing practices, such as the collection of firewood for fuel. Rapid urbanization creates particular environmental stresses. Increased amounts of waste are generated making adequate collection and disposal a problem.

h. Structural adjustment: Enough has been written and said about the reasons why most countries in the South, particularly in Africa and South America, have had to adopt IMF/World Bank-brokered structural adjustment programmes. Much expansion in developing countries (for example, in Latin America and in some of the islands of the Caribbean) was based on money borrowed abroad, with resulting reverse resource flows through debt servicing and structural adjustments that further impoverish the population.

Loan conditionalities create hunger by raising food prices and decreasing food entitlements creating instability and undermining longer-term sustainability.

Most programmes do not require monitoring of the cost of living, ignoring important qualitative aspects which have to be redefined. Poor people have less access to health services and resources are being replaced by cash crops. The bases of sustainable livelihood are being eroded. In Jamaica, for example, the removal of subsidies has caused kerosene to become unaffordable; women therefore began using woodfuel for energy. This has led to deforestation with consequent negative environmental impacts.

i. Access to land and other strategic resources: Land is a central issue and lack of access or deprivation of it has caused a number of struggles. During colonization, land was taken away from the indigenous populations who were systematically relocated to inferior lands and dislocated from their traditional resources. Once land was reallocated by force and without compensation, it has not been possible to seek its return because of intervening and complex, economic, legal and social relationships and "entitlements". Traditional, and often more equitable, practices of land tenure were destroyed with detribalization and relocation and replaced with new systems of enclosure laws and allotment. In some instances, women were alienated and patriarchal land rights became dominant.

Considering how land was distributed during the colonial times, the issue of compensation should be examined. Repatriation of land should take into account the survival of environment, women and children.

j. Loss of fragile ecosystems and biodiversity: Everywhere, vital and fragile ecosystems have been compromised, sometimes irreversibly, by wanton human activity. At stake are the health and livelihoods of entire local populations and, especially, marginalized peoples. The extent of the accompanying threats to biodiversity remain largely unpublicized. The case of the indigenous peoples of North America is an example which was given by one of the presenters. With the acquisition by the US Forest Service of the lands which had traditionally belonged to Amshinaabeg people, there was a reduction in the biological diversity of Leech Lake Reservation. To make it worse, said the presenter, manual and mechanical management of the forest was replaced with chemical products containing dioxins. Toxic sprays are used to intervene in the natural sequent occupance of the forest.

k. Effects on children: In addition to the negative impacts of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste on adults and the environment, there is also contamination of children's and urban babies' health (ie. teratogenic effects).

Children may, in some countries, be used as a source of cheap, docile labour ("child labour"). They may be exploited at the expense of their

education and the development of their full potential. Educational opportunities that are available to them, stressed one presenter, may be wasted because parents are afraid that children may be tempted by and hired away to the seemingly attractive urban life.

Concern was expressed over the continuing problem of child labour and other forms of child exploitation, such as prostitution and sale of organs. Support was required from governments vis-a-vis legislation, education, training and attitudes. In many developing countries, the legal apparatus was often removed from the actual realities, and such situations should be rectified. Although it may not yet be possible to eradicate child labour, provision of essential services would improve the situation of such children.

Sustainability can be Built into Development and Environmental Preservation Processes

69. In an environmental context, it was stressed that sustainability means development without damage to resources. In a social context it means that the process for arriving at goals we seek must take people's rights into account.

70. Development was described as a process of continual change. Development must be inherently participatory, one speaker stressed, and democratic and inclusive approaches are necessary prerequisites to successful development strategies. Development increases the capacity that people have to use resources in determining their lives. Simply mobilizing people to plant trees, for instance, does not in itself constitute a forest. If, however, people gain increased access to and control over resources, such as timber, firewood, income or skills development and training, then their participation yields benefits and constitutes real development. Development processes must be monitored to ensure that informal and formal mechanisms to gauge impact and to provide access and participation are implemented.

71. Attention was drawn by one speaker to the gravity of damage caused by some transnational corporations. An example given was the Bhopal disaster resulting from improper management of toxic chemicals. It was strongly argued that at present most economic systems lack accountability. Many examples were given in case studies, and special mention was made of the fact that no accountability system exists for institutions like Union Carbide which have destroyed the lives of thousands of people. There was and still is no platform to try Union Carbide, stressed one speaker. Yet the dangers of similar operations are growing all the time and many countries are on the verge of similar disasters. People continue to live close to potentially dangerous factories, particularly in developing countries. Without accountability, such "disasters in the making" will make the goal of sustainable development unattainable.

72. Escalating urbanization, in particular, is a living reality. By the turn of the century 18 cities, in the developing countries alone, will have more than 10 million inhabitants. One participant pointed out that rural to urban shift can actually be an opportunity for men and women to rethink their traditional roles and occupations. Education and the acquisition of new skills can make a difference at this time. Present development strategies do not recognize this phenomenon.

73. Development should be specific to the needs of those it is meant to help.

So often big projects are imposed in an area where smaller scale, more locally specific, projects might be more suitable. In the field of energy development for an area like the South Pacific, for instance, a participant stressed that there is great potential for alternative energy development because of the scattered nature of communities and the difficulty of supplying power from a central generating station. Appropriateness of an energy technology depends upon where it is used and who will be using it. Another approach will be ineffective.

Women as Part of the Process of Change Towards Sustainable Development

74. If development is to be sustainable it is necessary to focus more on the resource users--human beings--than on the resources alone. In this context women must be recognized as key agents of change.

75. Women and children often walk many kilometres just to secure water and firewood. Due to deforestation, many water sources are disappearing or are unprotected. Women and their children are victims of polluted and unsafe water sources, facing water-borne diseases, inadequate supply for family use and poor environmental sanitation. Indeed, the very process of securing this essential ingredient for life robs women of important time for attention to family, health, community well-being and leisure. These circumstances have implications for child labour and education, particularly for girls who, due to the pressures of work, are often unable to attend school.

76. Because women are not consulted, their legitimate and overarching concerns are viewed as "problems". They are seen as users and victims, not as agents of change.

77. Several presenters stressed that women's traditional environmental strategies are not being drawn upon and that this is a loss. While indigenous methods of coping may not be able to solve some modern day problems, particularly when degradation is found on a large scale, it is often the case that such traditional environmental strategies may be useful towards finding solutions at community and local levels. Systematic denigration of indigenous knowledge means also the systematic marginalization of the people from whom that knowledge has originated.

78. Participation of women and children in all phases of family and community-level activities, the UNICEF presenter stressed, is a key to sustained attitudinal and benavioral support to sound environmental and development actions. Family and community level activities are not at present given enough priority. Women's priorities--so often focused upon clean water and clean surroundings and the provision of adequate food and health care to their families--are incompatible with an environment which is degraded.

79. Consultation of women would allow them to take their rightful place as "actors" in the interrelated and complex considerations of interactions between development and environmental policies. For example, women's participation can often be a starting point for rebuilding environmentally degraded ecosystems, as in the case of the Mossi women of Burkina Faso, who decided to do something about getting water.

Community Activities Organized by Women - Examples of Success

80. There are many non-governmental organizations, and other community-based activities organized by women, which have been working to counteract

environmental degradation. Several presenters gave some history of the efforts and described their effects, problems encountered by constraints from the larger structures and the extent of their success.

81. Traditional knowledge and technology are clearly inadequate in meeting demands for more and better water resources, according to one presenter, and therefore new institutional arrangements are called for. Women have responded by transforming their traditional kinship/village mutual aid organizations into specific action-oriented groups.

82. In Kenya, KWAHO (Kenya Water for Health Organization) found that one significant outcome of water provision has been that sanitation has taken a natural course. When people have an adequate water supply the demand for improved pit latrines, refuse disposal compost pits, children's clinic services and general hygiene improvement has sharply risen among the communities. These projects have had a positive effect upon the physical environment and have assisted the development of new relations which have emerged as a result of the empowerment of women through the project process.

83. ELCI, the Environment Liaison Centre International, is promoting sustainable development through the empowerment of people whose livelihoods depend on their immediate ecosystems. Through its project WEDNET - Women, Environment and Development Network - ELCI is documenting and legitimizing African women's indigenous knowledge in the management of natural resources, as part of the search for strategies which will halt Africa's environmental degradation and bring about sustainable development. In the process, WEDNET is becoming a strong network of researchers, grassroots women, NGOs, environmental activists and policy-makers, joining hands to strengthen women as environmental decision-makers and managers.

84. Women, especially when already organized in groups, are keenly aware of their potential to effect change said one of the presenters. Through, for instance, political pressure or collaboration with other groups. The women of Burkina Faso, for example, took the leadership in solving the community's water problems in 1980, and this decision had political, development and environmental implication.

85. Women have been at the forefront of community initiatives for environmental management and rehabilitation. But these initiatives remain largely unrecorded and unrecognized. Action does not come only from registered NGOs. In addition, NGOs, despite the best of intentions, may simply not have the infrastructure to make a dent in the problems. They may lack resources and information. Often management training in planning, fund raising, evaluation and communication skills would be useful.

86. One NGO representative stressed the need to document much of the work which has been done so that other countries can benefit, and also so that work can be monitored. Water projects, she said, could not be described as successful unless they have been well maintained for at least 10 years.

87. Women and the NGOs that they control or influence, however, have always been in the vanguard of pioneering cost-effective and more realistic projects. They recognize, as they have been forced to, the inherent limitations of governmental actions and government's limited influence on ingrained cultural, economic and social patterns. This ability to do more with less is, in itself, an important skill base that must not be taken advantage of, but on which to build a people-oriented agenda for the twenty-first century and beyond.

Children's Growth and Development in Relation to the Environment

88. Within the context of the recommendations of the World Summit for Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, special attention was given to the girl child. The situation of women was also discussed in relation to their biological and social connections to children and the important supportive role of the family and community was emphasized. Special attention was also given to inimical processes including economic policies such as structural adjustment programmes which are having a negative effect on the lives of children.

89. Environmental effects on children's growth and development are best understood when broken down into major developmental stages of childhood. These are:

a. pre-conception, conception and development in the womb;
b. birth to one year;
c. one to five years;
d. five to twelve years;
e. the teenage years.

90. Access to basic amenities such as nutrition, clean water and sanitation is a cross-cutting concern that is crucial for the health of the mother and for all stages of the child's development.

Pre-conception, conception and development in the womb

91. Various threats to the mother and to the child in her womb seem to be increasing. Threats to the genetic structure and the DNA of the foetus are toxic chemicals, pesticides, alcohol and substance abuse. For example, women are often exposed to the harmful effects of pesticides and chemical fertilizers by having to stand in water contaminated by these substances, and that the transplacentral effects of such substances are harmful to unborn children and mothers alike.

"There are no safe wombs anymore."

92. Environmental degradation has now become so severe in certain areas that the choice of foods for nutrition has become severely limited.

> "It is no longer a question of whether the pollution in the waters is producing dead or inedible fish. If things do not improve, there will be no more fish left, dead or otherwise."

93. There should be accountability, and legislation which could be enforced, to protect women from working in environmentally hazardous occupations.

94. Finally, it was recognized that the present proportions of the environmental crisis show that the womb is no longer a safe place for the child.

Birth to one year

95. Feeding and weaning practices were discussed. It was noted that women are "squeezed" from carrying out the essential role of breastfeeding, particularly in urban areas. Marketing techniques for formula are responsible for the erosion of self-confidence of women in this respect.

96. Instead of being squeezed out of this important role, women could be better empowered by longer maternity leaves, job security, and better public systems of child care. Governments should take a lead in securing these supports to mothers of infants.

97. The problem of urban garbage and waste is a major source of pollution for infants in low-income areas. Chronic, low-level pollution from toxic chemicals was cited as a particular danger, where the effects are not immediately noticeable, but nevertheless results in the subsequent health of children being gravely affected.

98. The complex issues of female infanticide, foeticide, neglect and malnutrition of the girl child were discussed. Abuse of amniocentesis and other practices have even meant imbalances in the sex ratios favouring males in certain countries. In some tribal and traditional cultures, female infanticide has been used as a response to ecological pressures, particularly food shortages. It was agreed that educational approaches and development measures to end such practices must be promoted. It is, however, important that legal measures, where necessary, should not punish women who are the victims of a boy-preference culture.

99. Malnutrition and poor health of the mother contribute to premature births and miscarriages. These are linked to the generally lower status of women and to environmental conditions during pregnancy.

100. The breakdown of traditional societies, where they lose reference to their cultures and the carrying-capacity of their environment, are thought to contribute to unwanted pregnancies.

One to five years

101. The main threats to this age group are malnutrition-related diseases, diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections, ingestion of pesticides, chemicals and other accidents, such as burns and injuries, and finally, the AIDS pandemic, either having been born with the infection or losing a parent.

102. The effects of monoculture on food security and nutrition must be considered. Parents may not have the range of weaning foods that are required for sound growth.

103. It was recognised that this was the age when a child's mental development was at stake. Consequently, television and other pubic media must be made aware of their responsibility. It was suggested that advertising and all forms of violence should be monitored. It was also pointed out that there were many traditional values which promote environmental protection and sound relationships between people and nature; such values should bee promoted and built upon. Educational materials need to be reviewed for environmental content and gender bias.

Five to twelve years

104. All children have a right to adequate stimulation and education. The situation of homeless children and refugees were of special concern, particularly with respect to their access to basic services such as education and health.

105. A distinction, however, must be drawn between creative work which contributes in a positive way to a child's development, and exploitative work,

which deprives a child of its development, growth and educational opportunities in a broad sense, and/or may be hazardous by its nature.

The teenage years

106. Drugs, pregnancy and rape were recognized as some of the threats to this age group.

107. The causes of teenage problems, such as pregnancy and substance abuse, were analyzed. These include: lack of a family environment, lack of adequate purpose or alternative opportunities, and the break-up of traditional structures due to urban migration, among others. Consequently, education and information which promotes a healthy family lifestyle are essential, as well as the promotion and creation of alternative educational, vocational and recreational activities.

108. It was pointed out that opportunities for girls were not organised in rural areas, unlike those in many urban areas, and that the linkages between women's and youth organizations could form a movement of tremendous potential.

109. Environmental education is equally important at this stage.

OTHER ISSUES

110. Shelter: The effects of shelter on health aspects related to water and sanitation as well as disaster-related impacts on shelter, were discussed. It was emphasized that even the cheapest forms of shelter may be beyond the means of the poorest segments of the population. Legitimate rights of squatters to basic services should be recognized, particularly where there are no publicly-provided or sanctioned alternatives to meet shelter needs.

111. Transportation and safety: It was pointed out that a very large number of children die in traffic-related accidents every year. Streets and transportation, therefore, must be safe and non-polluting.

112. Space: Adequate space is needed for play and recreation. In many cases, this option has been fore-closed by encroachment of agricultural land, increasing urbanisation, commercialization or other reasons.

113. Household fuel: All alternative means of energy production and use should be supported for household fuel, both to lighten the work-load of women and children, and to prevent dietary imbalances and malnutrition resulting from reduction or omission of foods which require a longer cooking time. With regard to social forestry and agroforestry, it was recommended that a certain percentage of the land, resources or produce be set aside for, and managed by, women. The legal status of women concerning their access to land and information services must also be priorities.

114. Nomads: The right to be nomads, and their rights of access to land and basic services were stressed. Various studies that have already been carried out on the difficult issue of nomads and environmental degradation need to be further strengthened. The need to draw upon local wisdom was also emphasized.

115. Refugees: 'Environmental refugees' may be created instantaneously by a disaster or over a period of time as the conditions of marginal lands deteriorate. It was agreed that early warning systems were needed to predict situations which may produce such refugees. Development interventions which might create such refugees must be avoided. Also concerns were situations of war

which caused, and contributed to, environmental degradation. The necessity of providing basic services for children in refugee camps was stressed, as well as the need for global-level action for famine situations.

116. It was reiterated that global level solutions were required for environmentally sustainable development, since it was not possible for developing countries to find solutions in isolation. However, family and community-level actions, leading to the reclamation and regeneration of resources, must be carried out at the same time.

Development relationships

117. The image and role of the South as a constant "taker", and of the North as a constant "giver", must be replaced by a more equitable relationship, since both sides have much to contribute to each other.

PART II

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY UNCED

118. The following recommendations resulted from the Working Groups of the Symposium as well as from the closing Plenary session and also reflect the presentation and discussion of the basic papers and the case studies. They are presented to conform to the divisions used by the Preparatory Committee of UNCED in terms of the division of agenda items for discussion in Working Groups and Plenary*.

WORKING GROUP I (UNCED)

LAND RESOURCES

119. Basis for action: For sustainable development, women should have access to and control over land and other natural and productive resources, such as trees and water. Participants in development activities should derive benefits, i.e., increased access to resources, from their participation.

Recommendations:

120. To ensure women's access to and control over resources, special attention and action is required at the sectoral level.

121. To improve women's access to resources, efforts are needed in education and communication, to change traditional attitudes and stereotypes about women.

122. The legal framework for access to resources--specifically the rights of women to land--need to be addressed in the Earth Charter, and tied to the rights of women and children.

123. Agricultural policy and practices must be oriented to building upon local knowledge and initiative, and be geared to fulfilling national and regional needs in food self-sufficiency.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

124. Basis for action: Women historically have been the key resource managers and have played this key role efficiently on the basis of knowledge which is indigenous to them and their communities. This fact has received scant appreciation by development thinkers and planners.

Recommendations

125. Strengthen the research capacity of local researchers to document and interpret the reality of the contribution to sustainable development of grassroots women.

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*WORKING GROUP I	Land resources; Climate change; Deforestation; Biodiversity; Biotechnology.
WORKING GROUP II	Oceans; Freshwater; Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes.
WORKING GROUP III	Legal Instruments and Institutions.
PLENARY	Environment and Development; Poverty and Environmental Degradation; Health; Financial resources; Technology transfer; Education and Public awareness; Human Settlements.

126. Build and strengthen the networks of women, NGOs and researchers deriving their livelihood directly from their ecosystem.

127. Facilitate movements of people within countries and across borders in promotion of people-to-people exchanges (knowledge, technologies, experiences).

128. Institutions that support indigenous knowledge and local initiatives should be established by the people concerned, where the problems are and where the resources are.

129. Women should be duly recognized as repositories of indigenous knowledge relevant to sustainable livelihoods and environmental preservation. Their capacities to transmit and to effectively utilize this knowledge should be encouraged, enhanced and strengthened.

130. Given their vital roles as binders of society, women should be accorded effective access to and control over the strategic resources required for sustainable livelihood.

131. Basis for action: The management of river basin dams should be planned to support a diversified productions system in which environmental sustainability and socio-economic growth with equity are acknowledged as guiding principles.

Recommendations

132. River basin infrastructures should be managed to support a sustainable and diversified production system, utilizing flood control.

133. Governments should meet obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women by assuring women the same rights of access to productive resources as are enjoyed by men. Specifically, women, on the same basis as men, need to be guaranteed plot tenure on irrigated schemes and membership in the water users associations. This will not be easy because the "traditional" society as well as the contemporary one did not provide for gender-blind access. The increasing assumption of agricultural labour on the part of women, without the jural rights that should accompany it, underscores the urgency of this desired change.

134. Agricultural research should be aimed at sustainability increasing production on rain-fed and flood-recession and rain-fed agricultural fields, in hand-water vegetable gardening, in pastoral livestock herding, and in floodplain and riverine fishing, as well as on irrigated perimeters. At present, agricultural research is focused almost exclusively on irrigation, and on commercial crops, the arena within which most women confront great discrimination.

DEFORESTATION

135. Basis for action: The need to (a) broaden the debates on forestry issues, to focus more on people than on trees or forests, and (b) link forestry issues much more actively to discussions of cross-sectoral issues, such as environmental degradation and poverty.

Recommendations:

136. Forest and natural resource management and development activities need to focus on people, ie. users of resources, rather than on the resources themselves.

137. Development programmes and projects need to move away from a sectoral approach towards a more integrated approach. Forestry and natural resource management needs to be integrated not only with other land use management issues, such as agriculture and livestock, but also with human resource development, eg. health, education and employment, and improvement of human living conditions, eg. safe drinking water, sanitation and adequate housing.

138. For forestry development efforts to be effective, they need to be broadly participatory and equitable. A wide variety of strategies are needed to work with women and children.

139. The long-term time-scale of forestry development activities needs to be carefully considered. Trees do not grow overnight. Mobilization of women in development also needs a long-term commitment. Nonetheless, efforts are also needed to ensure that women derive short-term benefits, such as income, from their participation in forestry development activities.

140. The goal of promoting the participation of women and children in forestry development activities is not participation per se, but ensuring that these participants benefit through increased access to, and control over resources. Cost-benefit analyses need to be disaggregated by gender and age.

141. Forestry development programmes must offer women greater opportunities for paid employment and income-generation. Women forest workers need: greater chances for employment, equal pay for comparable work, on-the-job training and promotion, and minimized health hazards, such as pesticide exposure.

142. Education and training are central in directing forestry to a more participatory approach. Three types of education and training are needed. First, more women need to be trained and employed in forestry at all levels--from grassroots to international policy-making levels. Second, all foresters, both men and women, need greater training in how to better work with diverse resource user groups, and to reach women, children and men resource users. Third, more focus on environmental education and forestry issues is needed in basic education programmes for children and adults.

143. Development of broad forestry and natural resource policies and legal instruments must be more participatory and people-focused, and be backed up by financial commitments. Such policies must be carefully designed to ensure that women and children can participate and benefit. Areas needing attention include: land tenure issues, the socio-economic impacts of commercial (industrial) forestry operations, broad policy and funding debates, such as the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, and proposed international legal instruments (conventions), such as those on tropical forests, (climate change,) and biological diversity.

144. To ensure a more participatory approach to forestry and natural resource management, more funding is needed. In addition, various financing possibilities for forest conservation need to be assessed in terms of their impact on different social groups, including women and children.

WORKING GROUP II (UNCED)

FRESHWATER RESOURCES

145. Basis for action: The gender perspective emphasizes that women and children's productive and social roles bring them into relationship to the total ecosystem so that all aspects of water development and resource management are

relevant--from domestic water supply to large-scale irrigation projects, from deforestation and acid rain to industrial pollution, and from urbanization to global water scarcity. This also requires more than "attaching" women and children's concerns to existing international and national plans. Instead, it merits a reorientation of priorities which gives women's concerns equal priority. This would mean a more balanced national planning agenda, one in which financial and technical support to promote women's participation would be an integral part of building up national institutional capability.

Recommendations:

International Level

146. Environment and development: Women's current role in management of household water supplies, as well as their role as agricultural and fisheries workers is a key factor in the ecology of freshwater resources. Women must be given information concerning preservation of ecologically sensitive water resources and conservation, and they must be included in the decisions affecting their work.

147. Management of transboundary watercourse and international lakes: Women as agricultural workers are affected by regulations concerning shared water resources and inter country agreements on international river basins. In cases in which these require the cooperation of producers and workers living in basin areas, education and information should be provided equally to women. National NGOs may be more involved in such initiatives and assist in information dissemination.

148. Control of water pollution: In all aspects of control of water pollution, including protecting fisheries, development of an integrated pollution control policy, and in research and testing of appropriate techniques for pollution reduction and control, consideration is needed to the special needs of women and children and the potential of their involvement in programmes. Women as householders and mothers are typically strong supporters of positive actions taken to protect food supplies and the health of the environment of children. They can help provide vital information concerning community needs, the right direction for policy formulation, and mobilize support for implementation of policies.

149. Use of living freshwater resources: Policies related to the maintenance of genetic variability and living aquatic resources along with improving fisheries development are of concern for women and children, particularly in tribal and ethnic minority groups. In many instances, commercial interest may conflict with those which are beneficial to the poorest population, or tribal groups with traditional rights to freshwater resources. In all cases, it is important that women from various ethnic and tribal groups be informed and involved in decisions concerning use of freshwater resources in order to protect their interests and rights to and to ensure a fair national policy.

150. Capacity-building for monitoring: Plans for water quality monitoring networks, national laboratories and research on water quality are important actions at the national level. However, in many developing countries, these will not bee fully implemented for many years; nor are they able to monitor in remote areas. In their absence, it is important that local community management be encouraged and that women be provided with adequate leadership role so that they can be equal partners in monitoring and evaluation at the local level.

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National and Local Level

151. National capacity: In the building up of national capability, there are many institutions which need strengthening. In order to further strengthen NGO involvement, there is room to launch nationwide information and education campaigns to reach all development-related NGOs. While many NGOs exist, not all of them are aware of the importance of water and environment issues as they relate to other development efforts. Because water is only one of the many underlying ecological factors affecting poverty and sustainable development, a wide variety of NGO exchanges would enrich the programmes. NGOs need more information on how their activities may help build or destroy the environment.

152. In sum, when allocating resources to building up of national capability, it is important that these also be given to NGOs which promote women's participation and to youth and education programmes as well as to the more traditional areas such as improving urban water management. In order to be effective NGOs and local community groups have to have decision-making powers as to the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects.

153. Structural and financial support for women's participation is required even with moves towards decentralization.

154. "Integrated management" - intersectoral coordination: Another policy and planning issue relevant to the ecological approach to water is the need to improve intersectoral coordination particularly between health and water sectors and between those affecting women and children's economic and social status.

155. Mechanisms need to be developed to coordinate such projects, and to provide planning forums for integrated programmes. These may be under the rubric of "integrated environmental management" which draws together various sectors into working groups, or "integrated pollution control" dealing with a specific aspect of the environment. In all instances, women must be seen as managers as well as implementors and their interests represented at the planning stage.

156. Much more needs to be done in these sectors to change the stereotype of women as non-producers and to involve them more fully in decision-making about the types and uses of technologies.

157. Basis for action: There is a need for systematized analysis to build and formulate clear goals for obtaining safe drinking water. The workload of women and children should be reduced through improved availability of water resources from the point of view of their health and in terms of providing more time for the education of girls and recreational activities for both.

Recommendations:

158. The success of the project is dependent upon the high degree of community participation in its conception, planning, implementation and decision-making at all levels. Projects are most likely to be successful in well-organized communities.

159. Members of the community need to be sensitized to cultivate appropriate perceptions and relationships with project issues.

160. Government and NGOs should be in supportive relationships while the community takes the lead.

161. Since women are responsible for water, they should be given adequate training in maintenance of equipment and its agricultural and sanitation uses.

ENERGY

162. Basis for action: Although surrounded by limitless natural energy resources, most of the world is over-dependent on fossil fuels. Access to low cost energy has become an expected right, and even a symbol of wealth in developed and developing countries. However, this energy is usually not generated or widely used in a sustainable manner and does not adequately benefit women and children. The majority of today's pollution problems stem from the abuse of traditional fossil fuel sources, which have created (and are continuing to create) carbon dioxide emissions and other environmental pollutants which are slowly destroying our earth.

163. Energy consumption patterns similar to those in the North are being emulated by developing nations of the South, thus making them often heavily dependent on imports of coal, oil, petroleum and diesel. Other areas face depletion of traditional fuel resources (eg. biomass).

164. To create a pattern of sustainable energy production, transmission and consumption new and renewable energy technologies have to be implemented in both the short and long terms around the world. These technologies include solar thermal, solar electric, solar hydrogen, geothermal, wind power, micro-hydro systems, ocean thermal electric, biomass and biogas. It does not include nuclear energy due to the environmental threats which this technology poses.

Recommendations:

For Governments of Developing Countries

165. Community discussions which include women should be initiated on possible energy solutions, and priorities formulated which reflect local needs and reduce the workload of women and children and promote better health and time for schooling.

166. Development of communications between voluntary groups and other NGOs, government officers, aid agency representatives, the World Bank, village leaders and local women's networks (as applicable) should be facilitated to define energy problems, provide education about alternatives, and stimulate local awareness.

167. NGO networks can be very positive catalysts to help with the growth of ideas, and to bring these through the correct channels to those authorities who sponsor energy projects. These networks need to be utilised, especially in village communities of societies where women's voices are not given important consideration.

168. Energy solutions should be defined through the procedures outlined above (160. and 161.), which are environmentally, ecologically and economically sustainable. For total project success, these must also take account of indigenous practices and values.

169. Energy projects benefit the health and well-being of the whole community, not just one elite segment and should become the goal.

170. Responsibility must be taken at the local level for the initiation, implementation and maintenance of energy projects. This includes active

participation of women in all stages of the projects they are usually recipients of energy supplied and can be as disadvantaged by implementation of inappropriate technology as by no technology at all.

171. Localized energy systems, based on new and renewable energy technologies, are vital. Localised systems allow each community to encourage the application of renewable energy technologies through the following:

a) control their own energy flow
b) choose technologies most appropriate to their needs
c) not be held hostage to increasing fossil fuel prices.

172. Local expertise and knowledge in renewable energy systems should be used by networks to train other village communities.

For Governments of Developed Countries

173. Energy efficiency measures at all segments of community (domestic, commercial, industrial, transportation) should be introduced immediately. Such practices include fluorescent lamps, solar-efficient domestic housing and commercial office blocks and energy-efficient household and consumer products, including automobiles and efficient heating systems.

174. Additional funds for research, development and demonstration projects which involve new and renewable energy technologies should be provided.

175. Where applicable, legislation to encourage application of such technologies by all segments of the community (for example: carbon tax, incentive schemes, VAT/sales tax exemptions) should be authored and passed. The revenue raised from such legislative initiatives will contribute to the subsidized cost of implementing these systems in the short term in both developed and developing countries, and lead to lower unit costs of the systems (unsubsidized) in the long term.

176. Adoption of these technologies should be actively encouraged and public education campaigns to foster awareness of the short- and longer-term benefits of these technologies should be mounted.

TOXIC CHEMICALS, HAZARDOUS WASTES

177. Basis for action: Poison and pollution which result from production processes have harmful effects on the dependent community. The presence of toxic chemicals in environments of mothers/mothers-to-be poses a grave threat to the genetic structure of the foetus.

Recommendations:

178. Financial and political support should be given for research and action on the impact of toxic and dangerous chemicals on genetics, pre-conception and health of women and children. Production, transportation and use of such substances must be assessed and monitored and efforts made to promote research on environmentally-sound alternatives. Where mechanisms have been established, these must be followed up and strengthened.

179. For small island nations with fragile ecosystems, pollution problems from industrial emissions, particularly carbon emissions result in devastating damage to the environment which is beyond the nation's capability to solve on their own.

Concerted regional and international efforts will be required to ameliorate effects of such pollution.

180. International technical assistance should be provided to eliminate poison and pollution should be offered at all levels of government, down to the smallest units of government.

181. Consumers' associations should demand caution and environmental care in the production process.

182. Technology transfer to small and cottage sector units and assistance should aim to repair past environmental damage.

183. Easy credit policies should be given for the purchase of effluent plants.

184. Slum re-development should give special attention to needs of women and children.

WORKING GROUP III (UNCED)

LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

185. Basis for action: Implementation of conventions and legal instruments emanating from UNCED dealing with climate change, forestry and biodiversity may not be possible without consideration of the needs of women and children in sustainable development.

Recommendations:

186. All conventions and legal instruments including the Earth Charter must take into account the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Standards setting instruments must strengthen the human dimension inherent in achieving sustainable development by ensuring access and entitlement to land and other strategic resources for all peoples and promoting the development of human resources.

187. Serious efforts must be made to end the violence against women and children of homeless, nomadic, indigenous groups and refugees as a result of policies of and the actions by military forces of national government.

188. Governments must act to remove barriers to free, but responsible, movements of peoples within countries or regions, in consonance with women's and children's reality of a world without frontiers or borders.

189. Basis for action: Most international organizations dealing with the environment and development minimize women's and children's issues with the exception of organizations that have specific mandates on women and children. To date, no organization adequately addresses environmental issues as they affect women and children.

Recommendations:

UN system and international agencies

190. Measures should be implemented to ensure that:

a. Emphasis on women's and children's issues on environment and development will be strengthened in collaboration with relevant UN agencies and specifically with the leaders at the Earth Summit. Progress should be reported annually to the UN General Assembly.

b. All the UN organizations and other international development agencies should combine efforts to support research and development activities and to prepare public information materials on environment and development with emphasis on women and children. Such information should be disseminated worldwide at all levels of societies and governments, and to all groups.

c. Mechanisms and existing networks that strengthen the participation of women and children in environment and development issues, such as child-to-child movement, will be promoted and supported.

d. An international monitoring organization on women and children for environment and development will be organized to mobilize women worldwide and to ensure their integration in environmental and developmentally linked activities.

191. Basis for action: The United Nations contributed to the raising of global consciousness and setting standards for environmental protection and management. It is of concern that many United Nations organizations, however, have not yet adequately adopted simple and effective measures in their own activities to use renewable and non-renewable resources wisely to minimize wasteful consumption.

Recommendations:

192. The United Nations system should set an example for environmentally-responsible use of energy and resources. As an example, UNCED could begin by:

a. using recycled paper for all uses possible, and

b. intervening with the United Nations system to use recycled paper within the Palais des Nations and the entire organization.

PLENARY (UNCED)

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT LINKAGES/
POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

193. Basis for action: Disequilibrium of ecosystems and poor management of natural resources is coupled with social disequilibrium and inequality (poverty).

Recommendations:

194. Strategies to promote a structural change of the relationship between ecosystems and social systems must be developed.

195. Empowerment of women in decision-making must be promoted.

196. Since entitlements to food are decreasing, affecting children and women most, mechanisms to guarantee national and household food security must be developed so that hunger, malnutrition and starvation are eliminated.

197. Basis for action: The impact of poverty and environmental degradation disproportionately affects women and children. On both the national and international levels, resources and technologies flow primarily to men.

Recommendations:

198. An effective strategy to tackle problems of environmental degradation simultaneously should begin with a focus not on resources or on production, but on people. Programmatic interventions must consider means for promotion of sustainable livelihoods for women and their children. Women-headed households constitute between a quarter and a third of all households worldwide. In some rural areas of developing countries as well as in many refugee situations, adult men are absent much of the time. Therefore, targeted activities to benefit, educate and empower women--especially in areas of technology transfer, income generation, employment and small-scale production--are necessary.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

199. Basis for action: Constraints in international economic relations and some solutions proposed by international agencies exacerbate problems of poverty and environmental degradation. At present there is a reverse resource flow from the developing countries to the developed countries as a result of debt servicing, unequal trade patterns and policies of international financial institutions which impedes development.

Recommendations:

200. A reevaluation of the global economic system which forces nations to turn away from indigenous practices, marginalizes women and degrades the environment in order to meet balance-of-payment terms is imperative. Structural adjustment policies imposed by multilateral bodies on poor countries must take due consideration of the possible negative impacts of structural adjustment on sustainable livelihoods and on women, children and the environment. Special checklists or analyses that reveal negative impacts must be incorporated into the normal assessments and designs of structural adjustment programmes, and special measures to minimize such negative impacts (including preservation of social welfare programmes that affect health, food security and shelter) should become integral parts of steps required by governments facing structural adjustment.

201. A restructuring of the current international economic relations is mandatory to break the negative cycle which promotes the flow of resources from the poor to the rich countries and to ensure a just and equitable capital flow in the other direction.

202. Basis for action: Global trends promoting armed conflict and military expenditures divert huge resources from development and are major causes of environmental degradation. Women and children are often the primary victims.

Recommendations:

203. Establishment of effective institutions for conflict resolution at the national, regional and international levels is now urgent. Participation of substantial numbers of women in these institutions and at deliberations on conflict resolution is critical and must be ensured at all times.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

204. Basis for action: Formal and informal education, training, awareness raising, information dissemination, communication and use of language that is gender-sensitive and accessible to a broad audience, are vital for involving women and children in efforts to combat environmental degradation and poverty. Women have to be given access to the means to enable them to effectively participate in all levels of decision-making, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of policies or actions affecting them.

Recommendations:

205. Women and girls should have first right to all forms of education and training in view of their roles as environmental resource managers and as primary educators of children.

206. Technical education in environmental and natural resource fields must focus on community participation. Technical specialists should be trained to work with a wide variety of target groups, learning how to work with people of different genders, ages, and different types of resource users.

207. More such training must be offered to women. More women extension agents are needed to work with women resource users.

208. More grassroots, technical and professional women are needed to participate in policy and decision-making processes affecting women. Training and opportunities must be provided to enable women to participate in policy and decision-making processes.

209. Educational systems should be reoriented toward creative curriculae which promote sustainable development and protection of the environment. Existing educational materials and curriculae should be reviewed for gender bias and relevance to environmental education and health.

210. Educational levels of the girl child and women should be raised, since this has a beneficial effect on implementation of most sustainable development initiatives and improves the status of women. This should entail both formal and non-formal training, including skill development. Environmental education should promote equity between men and women as well as attitudinal changes regarding gender roles in the management and allocation of natural resources.

211. Women must benefit from increased education and training that empowers them to contribute to attainment of local and national development goals. Environmental sensitization and training should be specifically directed to women in recognition of their roles in socializing and educating children. Women also should play leadership and professional roles in organizations, multilateral agencies and governmental entities that have substantial responsibilities for environmental or development issues or programmes.

HEALTH

212. Basis for action: The current imbalance in relationships among women, environment and development has negative implications for the health of entire communities.

Recommendations:

213. All development projects should include adequate health impact planning and assessment. The assessment should include all possible positive and negative health impact on all population groups involved. To ensure this, mechanisms such as a review body should be established and empowered by each country to ensure that development projects meet these criteria. Affected populations should be entitled to participate in assessment procedures.

214. Breastmilk is a natural resource which should be preserved. Women are discouraged from carrying out their essential breastfeeding roles particularly in urban areas. Marketing of breastmilk substitutes should therefore be discouraged and controlled according to international codes. Governments also bear the responsibility for legislation and basic public systems of child care and support for working mothers.

215. Female infanticide, foeticide, neglect and malnutrition of the girl child is a complex issue involving boy-preference cultures and ecological pressures, particularly food shortages. Legal measures, where necessary (regarding, for example, amniocentesis) should not punish women who are victims of their cultures. Every effort should be made to promote educational approaches and development measures to end such practices.

216. Basis for action: Many people, such as those in the Sahel, continue to rely upon medicinal plants to maintain family health. At the same time, desertification, deforestation and environmental degradation are destroying plant species that women use for these important health purposes.

Recommendations:

217. Strategies to combat deforestation must have a particular focus on conserving and promoting indigenous medicinal species.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

218. Basis for action: Transfers and applications of technology can result in environmental degradation, undermine human health and minimize women' roles.

Recommendations:

219. Technology transfer should not only be environmentally sound, but also benign to women and children. Such technology should build on indigenous technology and knowledge, be appropriate, affordable and based on locally available material. Environmentally sound and equitable methods of production and species preservation should be promoted as part of such transfers and local capacity to ensure sustainability be fostered.

220. Women must have access to and control over gender-specific and appropriate technologies to improve the quality of life for themselves and their children, and to enhance their ability to continue primary roles as resource managers, caretakers and producers.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

221. Basis for action: Urban as well as rural dwellers face substantial challenges due to environmental degradation, pollution, toxic wastes and poor land-use policies. In many countries, migration of rural dwellers to urban areas--even when this migration is part of a pattern of production and income generation that forces rural women to engage in agricultural production as inhabitants of rural areas and then to migrate to urban areas to market those products--has increased pressures on urban environments.

222. In many urban areas, poor women are engaged in agriculture, small livestock keeping and other activities deriving from their rural origins, in efforts to sustain their households. Policies and mechanisms should be developed to allow them to carry out these survival strategies in a safe and sustainable environment.

223. By the end of the century, over fifty per cent of the world's population, largely because of migration, will live in urban areas. In addition to rural-urban migrations, which are proceeding at an accelerated rate, whole communities have been forced to migrate because of environmental degradation.

Recommendations:

224. Women who have always been urban dwellers as well as women migrants need support and programmes that assist them in improving their housing and environmental sanitation in their homes and neighbourhoods. Measures also are needed to protect women and their families and children from preventable diseases and accidents. Special programmes should be implemented to ensure that urban resources are used to increase income security for women, particularly women who head poor households.

225. Governments and aid agencies must take cognizance of the fact that rural and urban needs are not identical, even though they also must not be perceived to be mutually exclusive. Solutions must therefore address and be tailored to the specific conditions of, and realities faced by, women and children where they are.

226. Urban development planning should encourage adequate services such as housing and health care in the poor urban areas to protect the health and well-being of women and children.

227. Efforts to improve housing, sanitation and access to facilities need to be integrated with efforts to improve the management of resources. In this regard efforts to improve rural housing could be coupled with introduction of improved cooking stoves, planting of fruit trees to improve child nutrition and provide shade around the homestead, etc. Efforts which reduce the workload of women will improve their prospects for employment, engagement in income-generating activities, literacy, and an improved quality of life.

DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURES, CONSUMPTION PATTERNS AND POPULATION DYNAMICS

228. Basis for action: Rapid population growth can exert pressures on both the environment and development processes but simply targeting women's fertility for control will not resolve the problem.

Recommendations:

229. Improving the overall status of women and their participation in socio-economic development together with availability of family planning services and information, and improved child survival rates, should be the basis of a sound and sustainable population policy.

230. If programmes to combat poverty and environmental degradation seek to broaden social participation, particularly of women and youth, these changes would also contribute to lessening of rapid population growth rates. In general, the best approach to tackling issues of rapid population growth where they exist seems to be support of female participation in socio-economic development including paid employment, education and management of natural resources.

231. Access to family planning services and information should be implemented and ensured as an important right for women and is crucial to the health and well being of women and children. Every effort should be made to implement measures to include men's active participation in family planning activities.

232. Basis for action: Refugees and Displaced Persons: While women and children are among the first victims of the poverty deprivation and environmental degradation, refugee women and children are even further marginalized. They, unlike most women, suffer from violation without any rights over their lives and destiny. Environmental, economic, and political refugees all face different problems, which warrant specific consideration.

Recommendations:

233. Special needs of refugee women and children must be considered in designing effective developmental and environmental management strategies to which they have contributed. Any strategy, policy or action taken to address the impact of poverty, environment and development on women or children should pay particular attention to refugee women and children.

234. Basis for action: Indigenous peoples have generally lived, and where possible continue to live, in harmony with their ecosystems. They have continuously had their land alienated, their lifestyles and well-being endangered and destroyed and their population and cultures decimated. Women and children are particularly affected.

Recommendations:

235. Indigenous peoples, especially women, continue to individually and collectively resist and combat environmental damage to their land and their populations. Measures to halt trends toward decimation of their population and to encourage an increase in declining populations of indigenous peoples must be effectuated.

236. Expropriation of land, forests and other resources must be stopped, as both an ethical imperative and because of the recognition that it is these peoples who actually can and will protect lands and resources. In this respect, UNCED should develop proposals with a view towards the General Assembly's declaration of 1993 as the "Year of the Indigenous Peoples of the World".

237. Basis for action: Nomads and pastoral peoples, especially women and children, face particular environmental stresses due to land and water degradation and often the least access to resources.

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Recommendations:

238. Measures to reverse deteriorating conditions of pastoral and nomadic peoples must be adopted. Rangelands are gradually being removed from nomad's use, some as a result of environmental degradation, some as a result of increasing trends towards privatization, with migration of men from non-productive areas in search of work, women and children are left with herding responsibilities with little or no infrastructure to support their efforts. In this context, common property rights to strategic resources such as land and water should be recognized and protected.

239. Basis for action: Special populations: Members of special populations, such s disabled people, are doubly handicapped in dealing with environmental degradation and poverty. All too often development programmes fail to reach these people.

Recommendations:

240. Members of special populations, such as disabled people, need special consideration and programmes in efforts to combat environmental degradation and poverty.

241. National governments must ensure that vulnerable groups, especially women and children, are protected from the adverse effects of structural adjustment policies.

242. Basis for action: Human energy, particularly that of women and school-age children, is already overburdened in managing resources. Further degradation of the environment will increase this workload.

Recommendations:

243. Human energy costs of development and environmental management need careful assessment. Strategies to minimize expenditures of women's and children's energy is vital for enhancing management of natural resources and for promoting sustainable development.

244. Basis for action: Consumption patterns of the affluent societies can negatively affect the living standards of less affluent and poorer societies and are not compatible with social justice, sustainability and the well-being of women and children. For those reasons, wasteful consumption should be curtailed. The "good life" should be redefined: the "good life" should become the "healthy life" and be accessible to all people without destroying the ecological foundations of life.

Recommendations:

245. Education and mobilization of people towards non-consumerist lifestyles and non-commoditized forms of satisfaction must be promoted.

246. Women's organizations and governments should protest against wasteful consumption patterns.

MEDIA, INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS

247. Public media must be made aware of their social responsibility. Advertising which promotes consumerism, violence and other anti-social messages

for children should be monitored. Funds to support alternative programming for children should be provided to encourage a healthy social and physical environment. Mass media should be utilized effectively in awareness-building, education and information dissemination to a broad public.

POPULAR PARTICIPATION

248. Basis for action: Broad participation in environmental management and development activities is needed, taking into consideration the responsibility and roles of women and children, women's involvement in decision-making processes and policies, and women and children as beneficiaries.

Recommendations:

249. For development to be effective, equitable and sustainable, various strategies must be employed to ensure that all community members, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, have the opportunity to participate in all stages of the development process.

250. Participants must profit from their efforts by gaining increased access to and control over resources, ie. land, water, income, skills, trees or other benefits.

251. To broaden participation, efforts need to be made to combat discrimination by race, gender and age must be combatted.

252. Development efforts must be adapted to respond to diversity on the basis of gender, age, race and ethnicity. Special measures are needed to ensure participation of already over-burdened persons, particularly women who are heads of households.

253. Participation and networking of children and youth, particularly of girls and poor street children, slum dwellers and child labourers should be promoted. Activities such as national worksnops, training camps, environmental activities should include these groups.

254. NGOs and other organizations working on environmental issues should be officially promoted and strengthened in order to develop a National Women's Movement for Environment and Development.

255. Regulations should be established to ensure that development and environmental protection measures ensure public space for women and children in every community.

PART III

VISION STATEMENT

256. PUT WOMEN, CHILDREN AND NATURE FIRST

I AM NATURE.

They call me Gaia, they call me Praktiti, they call me Naumbile, Lade, Weogo, they call me Kudrat, they call me Ivu and they call me many other names.
names sacred to all our people.

Who causes me hurt?

They say it is the large number of the poor.
They have called poverty a pollution.
They have called population the main reason for environmental degradation.

I would like to tell them that the millions of poor that inhabit me tread very lightly on me.
I do not feel their weight.
I feel the weight of that segment of people who overexploit me and overconsume my resources.

WE ARE WOMEN

We are mobilizing because our Earth is ill and her people are also becoming ill with life-threatening and ever increasing new diseases. Her wounds are visible to our naked eye. Over-exploitation has decimated forests and degraded soils. Rivers, lakes and oceans have been plundered and polluted. The biological treasures of our planet are diminished every day as the irreplaceable plant and animal species are exterminated. Everywhere, people suffer from decreasing supplies of clean water, fuel, shelter, lack of energy, fertile land and food.

Women have a deep spiritual and practical relationship with nature from which is born our wisdom and knowledge. Our skills do not violate the laws of the Earth.

But women have been misused. Our unpaid and undervalued labour is the backbone of the global economy. We are food growers, gatherers and processors. We are fuel and water managers. We are workers in field, forest, factory and office. We are teachers, caretakers of children, the elderly and the ill. We are consumers. We are community organizers, leaders in and out of government and thinkers. We are the mothers of future generations.

WE ARE CHILDREN

We want love. We want a future.
We want fresh air, clean water and food.
We want to laugh and play in the midst of nature's beauty.
We want to grow in a world that is free of fear and violence.

I. Poverty and environmental degradation which impact on women, children

and nature undermine sustainability, rest upon a global dominant development model based on the following characteristics:

1) on an industrial-military complex that stresses the production of the means of destruction of Earth and the people;
2) on a glorification of violence which brutalizes society;
3) on permanent growth and unlimited demands as well as on the illusion of unlimited resources;
4) on the misdirection of science, technology and industry;
5) on wasteful and destructive production and consumption patterns of certain classes and countries;
6) on the production of agricultural and other goods for export to the detriment of internal food supply and goods for the subsistence of people;
7) on oppressive social, economic and political structures, which also results in an ever-increasing number of economic and ecological refugees;
8) on the destruction of basic human and ethical values;
9) on media which obscures women's and environmental issues;
10) on a male centred vision and the exclusion of the major concerns of women.

II. We do want to promote a society that is based on human and spiritual values

1) on peaceful non-exploitative and reciprocal relations between humans and nature; men and women; and different generations, species and cultures;
2) on a people and nature centred development that enriches cultural,pluralism and biodiversity;
3) on the awareness of the limits of resources in this planet;
4) on the equitable access to, distribution of and control over land, wealth and profits;
5) on the settlements of international disputes through peaceful means, global disarmament and the demilitarization of all cultures.
6) on respect for different cultures and traditions and contributions to society.

We are determined to change the a-symmetric and dominant relationships of the economy with nature of men with women and of the North with the South. Our aim is nothing less than a revolution on behalf of women, children and the environment. We want to put an end to the revolutions of the rich against the poor and the environment which come under many names of structural adjustment, liberalization and free trade.

III. We do recommend the following strategies:

1) a) the restructuring of political institutions so as to guarantee democracy and popular participation;
   b) the participation of women sharing equally with men in all decision-making levels as a policy formulating force. this includes governmental and non-governmental organizations.
   c) the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women;

2) a) the restructuring of economic systems to include the

economic self-reliance of people and nations based on mutual respect and non-conditionality;

b) the attribution of priority to the basic needs of the poor: shelter, food, energy, water, sanitation, health and education, training and work opportunities;

c) the rejection of efforts to control and commoditize all life forms and life processes including women's fertility;

3) a) the change of gender division of labour. this means that men also have to be responsible for the maintenance of the everyday life and share unpaid household work. The care of children and the elderly, the sick and disabled cannot be left entirely to women's responsibility, especially under conditions of increasing poverty, urbanization and environmental degradation.

It is our belief that subjugation of nature parallels the subjugation of women in many societies, denying them sovereignty over their lives and bodies. Until all societies truly value women and environment, their joint degradation will continue.

We will not allow ourselves to be "ghettoized", to act only within the household because we are more than housewives and because our situation in the remotest field, forest, village, slum, office, government department, school, hospital is being determined by international institutions and multinational interests, and authoritarian structures

We will act locally, and globally to create a world on the planet in which women, children and nature can live in peace and harmony and which fosters spiritual balance and harmony within the individual, between individuals and with the environment as a whole.

FOR US THE LOCAL IS THE GLOBAL.

DECISION

Women and Children in UNCED

257. The participants of the UNCED/UNICEF/UNFPA symposium "Women and Children First" held in Geneva from 27-30 May 1991, request the Secretary-General of UNCED to help ensure the following;

258. That recommendations of this symposium be incorporated in the basic documents of UNCED and Agenda 21 and that the report of the Symposium be submitted to the Third Preparatory Committee. In this regard, recommendations from the Global Assembly on Women and the World Women Congress for a Healthy Planet to be held in Miami in November should be treated in similar manner.

259. That gender issues be addressed at UNCED as a distinct topic, in addition to being horizontally integrated into all discussions. Furthermore, representation at UNCED meetings, in all technical working groups and delegations should be gender balanced. Proportional representation as a precondition should be carried to Brazil and recommended as a requirement for programmes proposed under the Earth Charter and Agenda 21. Other important groups, such as children, indigenous peoples, refugees and the poor, also should have significant representation in the UNCED process.

260. That the office of the Special Adviser on Women, Environment and Development be strengthened with adequate resources to undertake the important task of ensuring adequate attention to women's issues in the UNCED process.

261. That a Task Force representing women's and children's groups be set up to achieve the following:

a. Recommend specific actions needed in each sector of UNCED to ensure that indicators of progress toward sustainable development incorporate measures to ensure beneficial impacts on women and children as indicated in the vision statement of the symposium,

b. Identify resources and infrastructural support needed from international, regional and national agencies, to promote women's participation in UNCED activities at all levels and in each sector,

c. Assist in the creation of Task Forces at the National level,

d. Encourage each participant attending this symposium to act individually or collectively towards creating National Task Forces in their respective countries.

ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT DECISION

262. The following contains elements of a draft decision based on the report of Working Groups and Plenary for consideration by the Conference.

"Women and Children First" in Sustainable Development

263. The participants of the UNCED/UNICEF/UNFPA Symposium 'Women and Children First' held in Geneva from May 27-30, 1991:

264. Recognizing the critical roles of women and children in achieving both a sound environment and sustainable development, and the precarious situation of Environment and Development which have imperilled all humanity, but especially women and children;

265. Concerned about the current problems of society, as seen through the effects of environmental stress on children;

266. Noting that environmental degradation and inappropriate development are related to:

a) The World Economic Order,
b) Poorly conceived Development Models,
c) Lack of women in the world power structures,
d) Lack of legal structures to deal with inequality and problems of land, water and air pollution,
e) Global forces that cannot be controlled by small communities on their own;

267. Stressing that the current world order with its attendant attitudes towards people and other resources is foreclosing access by most of the world's peoples, especially women and children from access to all resources and is anti-life and anti-nature;

268. Conscious of the fact that developing countries are severely affected by environmental degradation and inappropriate development and that the perception of these countries as the "needy", while industrialized countries are viewed as donors and guardians promotes a distorted attitude which perpetuates inequalities;

269. Recognizing that, while most of the industrialized North has already achieved success in dealing with poverty-related environmental problems, such as preventable disease, provision of clean water and adequate sanitation, etc, and is consequently able to focus its attention on global issues such as climate change and ozone depletion, such poverty-linked environmental degradation is still of major concern for the developing countries.

270. Deeply concerned that pollution of our environment affects even the unborn child and that there are no safe wombs any more;

271. Recognizing the central and crucial role of the family as a socio-cultural and developmental unit wherein the role of both women and men are equally important for themselves and for their children;

272. international authorities to support the roles of individuals of both genders and their families;

273. Recognizing the fact that women are repositories of indigenous knowledge relevant to sustainable livelihoods and environmental preservation and that their capacities to transmit and to effectively utilize this knowledge should be encouraged, enhanced and strengthened;

274. Noting that indigenous peoples generally have lived and, where possible, continue to live in harmony with their ecosystems and that expropriation of their land, forests and other resources must be stopped, as both an ethical imperative and because of the recognition that is it those indigenous peoples who can and will protect lands and resources:

The participants of the symposium:

275. Strongly call for an end to a developmentally unsustainable world order and trends, and a replacement by a new development paradigm that takes into account the rights of people, especially women and children, in accordance with the following Conventions:

- -The Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- -The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women;
- -The Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children.

276. Call on governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental bodies to focus particular attention on the linkage between poverty and environmental degradation and to promote measures aimed at alleviation of the worst effects of environmental degradation resulting from poverty - including provision of basic services and amenities for the poor, such as clean water, health and education.

277. Call for measures at all levels and by intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental groups to ensure that women are welcomed as full partners with men at all levels of human endeavour including environment and development to ensure that moral , psychological and material climate will be created in which peaceful, harmonious and sustainable civilizations can emerge and flourish.

278. Call for measures to ensure universal education which promotes the consciousness of the "oneness" of humanity; the spirit of co-operation rather than that of competition and the integral connection between the humankind and the world of nature.

279. Call for the implementation of measures at the local, national and international levels guaranteeing that women, indigenous peoples and children rights have access to, and control over, strategic resources needed for sustainable and equitable development, and the awareness and skills to preserve such a just order.

280. Call on Governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental bodies to ensure the right to a healthy life and a pollution-free environment.

281. Call for a total change in perception and attitude of both developing and industrialized countries of each other so as to promote exchange of ideas and support on an equal basis.

282. Call for a change in agricultural policy and practices so that they are oriented to building upon local knowledge and initiative, and geared to fulfilling national and regional needs in food self-sufficiency.

283. Call for adoption of measures to reverse deteriorating conditions of pastoral and nomadic peoples. Rangelands are gradually being removed from nomad's use, some as a result of environmental degradation, some as a result of increasing privatization. With migration of men from marginalized areas in search of work, women and children are left with herding responsibilities with little or nor infrastructure to support their efforts. In this context, common property rights to strategic resources such as land and water should be recognized and protected.

284. Request governments to act to remove barriers to free, but responsible, movements of people within countries or regions in consonance with women's and children's reality of a world without frontiers or borders.

ANNEXES

AGENDA

Monday 27 May

9.30-11.00 **OPENING CEREMONY**

- Introduction - *F. Steady*
- UNICEF Representative - *R. Padmini*
- UNFPA Representative - *H. Wagner*
- **Mr Maurice Strong, Secretary General, UNCED**

11.00- 1.00 **PLENARY - BASIC PAPERS**

- *chair: E.N. Raralio*
- *rapporteur: D.S. Spencer*
- *strategic moderator: B. Astolfi*

- Women, Children and Environment: Implications for Sustainable Development - *I. Dankelman*
- Women and Children Last: The Impovershment of Women, Children and the Environment - *V. Shiva*
- Problems of Environmental Degradation and Poverty with particular emphasis on Women and Children of Island Nations - *R. Wiltshire*

11.30-11.45 **BREAK**

11.45- 1.00 **PLENARY - BASIC PAPERS**

- Relationships Between Women's roles, Population Issues, Poverty and Environmental Degradation - *P. van den Oever*
- Street and Working Children - *A. Anand*
- UNICEF Background Paper on Children - *Y.Y. Nwe*

1.00- 2.15 **LUNCH**

2.30- 4.00 **DISCUSSION**

- *chair: S. Khunying*
- *rapporteur: D.S. Spencer*
- *strategic moderator: B. Astolfi*

4.15- 4.30 **BREAK**

4.30-6.00 **PLENARY - CASE STUDIES**

- *NATURAL RESOURCES*
  - Security in Agriculture and Biodiversity - *I. Dankelman and V. Shiva*
  - Food Security - *S. Holland*
  - Women, Children and Forest Resources in Africa - *P. Williams*
  - Women as Natural Resource Managers - *R. Jommo*
  - River Basin Development Policy and Women - *M. Horowitz*

Tuesday 28 May

9.30-11.30 **PLENARY - CASE STUDIES**

- *chair: L. Lassonde/Y. Kakabadse*
- *rapporteur: D.S. Spencer*
- *strategic moderator: R. Dyck*

♦ *PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT*

- Ensuring Access to Clean Water in Kenya - *M. Mwangola*
- The Energy Crisis: Looking for Alternatives - *R. Lechte*
- Leather Tanning in India: Poison, Pollution, Livelihood - *R. Wadehra*
- Water for Life - *S.Y. Yoon*

11.30-11.45 **BREAK**

11.45- 1.00 **PLENARY - CASE STUDIES**

♦ *POPULATION DYNAMICS*

- Impact of Poverty and Environmental Degradation on Women Migrant Workers in the United States - *D. Huerta*
- Indigenous Women and the Environment: the Case of the Native American Woman - *P. Bellanger/H. Tibbets*
- The Situation of Women and Children as Real and Potential Refugees in the Sahel - *K. Boly*

1.00- 2.15 **LUNCH**

2.30- 6.00 **PLENARY - CASE STUDIES**

- *chair: R. Merad*
- *rapporteur: D.S. Spencer/M. Horowitz*
- *strategic moderator: V. Jar*

♦ *HUMAN FACTOR*

- Consumption Patterns in the North - *M. Mies*
- Images of Gender, Generation and Environment in the National Development Programme of a Military Government - *N. Aguiar*
- Industrial Pollution in the Caribbean - *H. Farabi*
- Women, Water and Childhood Diarrhoea - *S.S. Nasser*

6.00- 8.00 **RECEPTION**

Venue: Palais des Nations, Salon Lausanne, 8th Floor

Wednesday 29 May

9.30-11.00	WORKING GROUP A	WORKING GROUP B	WORKING GROUP B
	W O M E N • *moderator: B.Brown* • *rapporteur: M.Daniels*	**W O M E N** • *moderator: N.Whande* • *rapporteur: P.Williams/ H.Tibbets*	**C H I L D R E N** • *moderator: R. Padmini* • *rapporteur: Y.Y. Nwe*
	- Gender dimensions of poverty and environmental degradation	- Gender dimensions of poverty and environmental degradation	- Special areas of concern for children and minors
11.00-11.15	**BREAK**	**BREAK**	**BREAK**
11.15- 1.00	- Micro/Macro linkages - Policy implications	- Micro/Macro linkages - Policy implications	- Micro/Macro linkages - Policy implications
1.00- 2.15	**LUNCH**		
2.30- 3.00	Progress report of Working Groups A, B and C • *chair: R. Padmini* • *rapporteur: D.S. Spencer*		
3.00- 4.30	**Mr James Grant, Executive Director, UNICEF**		
4.30- 4.45	**BREAK**		
4.45- 6.30	**WORKING GROUPS A, B AND C** - Discussions/Proposals for Action		

Thursday 30 May

9.30-10.45	**WORKING GROUPS A, B AND C** Discussion/Proposals for Action
10.45-11.00	**BREAK**
11.00- 1.00	**PLENARY** • *chair: R. Arole* • *rapporteur: J. Gregory* Discussion/Proposals for Action
1.00- 2.15	**LUNCH**
2.30- 4.30	**PLENARY** • *chair: F. Chioma Steady* • *rapporteur: J. Gregory* ♦ Reports from Working Groups
4.30- 4.45	**BREAK**
4.45- 5.30	♦ Final Plenary
5.30- 6.00	♦ Formal Closing of Symposium • *chair: F. Chioma Steady* • *rapporteur: J. Gregory*
7.00	**DINNER** POONS Restaurant, 137 rue de Lausanne

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

A. **Basic Papers:**
- Anita ANAND (Women's Feature Service): Street and Working Children.
- Irene DANKELMAN: Women, Children and Environment. Implications for Sustainable Development.
- Pietronella van den OEVER: Women's Roles, Population Issues, Poverty and Environmental Degradation.
- Vandana SHIVA: Women and Children Last. The impoverishment of women, children and environment.
- Rosina WILTSHIRE: Problems of Environmental Degradation and Poverty with particular emphasis on Island Nations
- UNICEF: Children, Women and Environment.

B. **Case Studies**
- Neuma AGUIAR: Images of Gender, Generation and Environment in the National Development Programme of a Military Government.
- Holly TIBBETS: Divergent Jurisdictions: The Case of Chemically Managed National Forest on Leech Lake Indian Reservation of Northern Minnesota
- Koumba BOLY: L'Analyse de l'Environnement Socio-economique des Fenmmes et des Enfants d'une Zone Peri-Urbaine du Burkina Faso.
- Irene DANKELMAN & Vandana SHIVA: Security in Food Production: biodiversity, women and children.
- Hamid FARABI: Industrial Pollution and the Effects on Women and Children.
- Sekai HOLLAND: Food security with reference to activities in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.
- Michael M. HOROWITZ & Muneera SALEM-MURDOCK: River Basin Development Policy, Women and Children: a case study from the Senegal Valley.
- Dolores HUERTA: Impact of Poverty and Environmental Degradation on Women Migrant Workers.
- Rosemary JOMMO: African Women's Indigenous Knowledge in the Management of Natural Resources.
- Ruth LECHTE: The Energy Crisis: Looking for Alternatives.
- Maria MIES: Consumption Patterns of the North; the cause of environmental destruction and poverty in the South.
- Margaret MWANGOLA: Ensuring Access to Clean Water by Women and Children in Kenya.
- Shafika NASSER: Women, Water and Childhood Diarrhoea; a case study of an Egyptian village.
- Renu WADEHRA: Leather Tanning in India; poison, pollution and livelihood.
- Paula WILLIAMS: Women, Children and Forest Resources in Africa; case studies and issues.
- Soon-Young YOON: Water for Life.

C. **UN Documents:**
- UNCED: Emerging Gender Issues.
- UNCED: Earth Summit News
- UNEP/SWAG: Press Release: Global Congress Women and Environment.
- UNEP/SWAG: Information Kit. (limited availability)
- UNEP/SWAG: The African Women's Assembly: Women and Sustainable Development.
- UNEP/SWAG: The Arab Women's Asssembly: The Role of Arab Women in the Protection of the Environment.
- UNICEF: First Call for Children.
- UNICEF: Convention on the Rights of the Child. Information Kit. (1990)
- UNICEF & UNEP: Children and the Environment. The State of the Environment 1990.
- UNIDO: Environment, Women and Industrial Development. (1991)
- UNIFEM: Environment Programme. (flyer)
- UNHCR: Environment and Refugee Women and Children. (Yvette Stevens; 1991)
- UNRISD: Foundations or Sustainable Development. (Jessica M. Vivian)
- INSTRAW: flyer on INSTRAW's programme on Gender and Environment.
- UN/NGLS (Non-Governmental Liaison Service): E & D File 1992.
- World Health Organization: Technical Discussants on Strategies for Health for All in the Face of Rapid Urbanization. 1991.

D. **Background Information**
- Canadian Organization for Development through Education (CODE) - several publications
- Joan DAVIDSON: Women and Environment. Paper prepared for the Third Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers responsible for Women's Affairs. Ottawa, Canada. 9-12 October 1990.
- Joan DAVIDSON: Primary Environmental Care. (May, 1991)
- Institute for Development Anthropology (IDA) - several publications
- IPAC: information on World Women's Congress: 'Healing the Earth' (Miami, Nov.1991)
- The New Delhi Statement. Safe Water 2000. Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s. UNDP, World Development.
- Filomina Chioma STEADY: Women's Work in Rural Cash Crop Food Systems; the Tombo and Gloucester Development Projects in Sierra Leone, ILO, Geneva. 1984.
- Society for International Development: Towards a Better Future. Report of the National Conference on Women and Child Development. Jaipur, February 11-12, 1989.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ABSTRACTS OF BASIC PAPERS AND CASE STUDIES

Women and Children First: Implications for Sustainable Development
by Irene Dankelman

In this document the focus is on the relationship of women, children, poverty and environment and its implications for sustainable development. With a few exceptions the 'human development index' is uniformly lower for women than for men in developing countries, and children's position is not any better. It explains how the environment contributes to meeting people's basic needs and why women and children play a crucial role as managers of the environment. Their time and energy, knowledge and skills, as well as their perspective and cultural expressions are essential in this context.

The world is confronted with an ecological crisis at all levels. Environmental degradation affects all sectors which are essential to meeting basic human needs, and puts enormous burdens on women's and children's work and efforts. Their health and indeed their prospects for survival are affected adversely and their development opportunities are limited. Their autonomy is reduced.

Women and children develop coping strategies when confronted with these problems: they invest more time, effort and energy, economize in the use of resources, organizing and network for positive action.

Using several diagrams, an analysis is made of the position of women and children in natural resource management in a sustainable and non-sustainable systems. Based on this analysis ideas are presented to restore sustainability and improve women's and children's prospects. Finally, some potential areas of action are identified.

Women and Children Last: the Impoverishment of Women, Children and the Environment
by Vandana Shiva

Like the women and children who did not survive the sinking Titanic, the global economy is filled with locked gates, segregated decks and policies that assure that women and children will be the first-not the first to be saved-but the first to fall into the abyss that is poverty. For most people development-based on western style progress, growth and commercialisation of resource use for commodity production-has brought environmental degradation. It focused exclusively on financial indicators, such as GNP, and only took into account those activities that take place through the market mechanism. The convential paradigm of development perceives poverty only in terms of lack of western patterns of consumption.

The erosion of the resource base for survival is increasingly being caused by the demand for resources by the market economy, dominated by global forces. The costs of resource destruction are borne largely by women and children. The resources that supported their survival were absorbed into the market economy, while they themselves were excluded and displaced by it.

The economic draining of the South by the North implies a deepening of the crisis of impoverishment of women, children and the environment. But poverty is not confined to the so-called poor countries.

The first right mentioned in the Convention of the rights of the child is the right to life. This right has constantly be denied. Denial of rights to nutrition are the biggest threat to the life of women and children. The same policies which cause nutritional deprivation of children leads to nutritional deprivation of the soil. More than one-third of all deaths of children in the Third World are side effects caused by the water crisis. Toxic chemicals affect children first, and nuclear disasters are a threat to the future generations. As poverty and the environmental crisis deepens, women and children work more to meet the needs of survival. Often it is the girl child who takes on part of the mother's burden. Women's first survival strategy to cope with a crisis of survival is to extend themselves further in producing sustenance. The second strategy is that of resistance. Official responses are dominated by the view that 'the last child' needs no lifeboat. However, it is not the number of people which should count, but their access to the earth's resources. Grassroots groups begin the reversal of environmental degradation by reversing the trends which push women and children beyond the edge of survival, putting the 'last child' at the centre of concern. The challenge to the world's policy makers is to learn from mothers, from tribal and other communities, how to focus decisions on the well-being of children and future generations. Life creation rather than life destruction have to be seen as truly human acts.

Problems of Environmental degradation and poverty with particular emphasis on Women and Children of Island Nations
by Rosina Wiltshire

The paper examines some of the consequences of present 'development' strategies for environmental degradation and the impact on women and children. The relationships are probed in the context of the small island states of the region where the delicate island ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to rapid and irreversible environmental degradation.

Caribbean women's importance to environmental policy making, planning and programming, derives from the central role which they play in economic production and the fact that they constitute the majority of educators and play an important role in shaping societal values and attitudes to the environment.

The paper examines the implications of the responsibility which Caribbean women have for domestic food production and distribution and the role which they play in the rapidly growing service sector as well as free trade zones in this regards. Caribbean women's important role in agriculture means that they are heavily involved in the use of pesticides, water and land use. Their role in primary health care, care of the young and aged and household management is also examined in the context of development policies and environmental degradation.

It is argued that effective policy formulation on issues of environment and development such as natural resource management, agriculture and forestry, water quality and availability, poverty, population and production or public awareness cannot be effectively formulated and implemented without an adequate understanding of the nature and complexity of women's involvement in these issues and women's full participation in the policy making process.

The argument is also advanced that sustainable development will not be possible in the region if the present strategies are maintained and that irreversible environmental degradation and compromise of future generations is likely to be a consequence of current patterns. The paper poses alternative theoretical and practical policy initiatives to address the issues.

Women's Roles, Population Issues, Poverty and Environmental Degradation
by Pietronella van den Oever

Linkages are identified between the sustainable use of natural resources, women's roles, poverty, and demographic issues. Concrete examples are given of case studies, carried out by IUCN's Population and Natural Resources Programme, of nature conservation projects. Three main issues are discussed:

1. **Policies and projects for sustainable use of natural resources are inefficient if they fail to consider the specific roles in the division of labour between women, men and children.** In predominantly agrarian societies women produce much of the subsistence needs of the family, making abundant use of natural resources. It follows that women are not served by a deterioration of these resources. They are intimately acquainted with them and need them. Therefore women are indispensable partners in helping protect and rehabilitate nature.

2. **The linkages between the demography of women and the natural environment differ from the men's.** Apart from the equity issue--women ought to have access to all benefits of sustainable development on an equal footing with men--there is a more complex societal issue. Low status of women is a strong correlate of poverty, resulting in the vicious circle of environmental degradation, poor nutritional status and personal hygiene, high mortality, and sustained high fertility, leading to increasing population pressure, escalating environmental degradation, and population movements to more endowed environments. Male migrants are more mobile than women and children. The latter tend to become semi-permanent settlers, thereby significantly affecting the natural resources in the receiving area.

3. **Women in all societies are the prime educators of children.** Patterns of behaviour and values learned early in life tend to remain significant throughout one's lifetime. Therefore, women are the primary target group to receive explicit information on how the environment can be used without damage. This implies knowledge and radical behavioural changes to avoid unsustainable use of natural resources globally, including the avoidance of resource overconsumption, pollution, and the production of waste.

Street and Working Children: A case study
by Anita Anand

They can be seen at street corners, selling anything from balloons to newspapers. They are cooks, waiters and clean up boys at restaurants. They are rag pickers. They are boys and girls anywhere between four and eighteen, their real ages impossible to tell. There is no data, no record. They live by their wits, on the streets, often abandoned by their parents, who do not see any other option.

Yet others live with their families, in the shanty towns and colonies of New Delhi, but need to work, as they supplement the family income. Often they are the only wage earners.

Exploitation of street and working children is common. Laws cannot protect them as economics dictate what their life should be about. Yet, efforts have and are being made by government and non-government organizations in the capital city.

Jagriti, one project, functions in various parts of the city by offering an environment in which street and working children can come together, learn skills and have fun.

The case study focuses on Jagriti as a project that takes into consideration the environment that street children and working children and their families must live in and survive.

UNICEF Background Paper

This paper attempts to analyze the relationship between children and the environment, within the framework of UNICEF activities. The approach has three dimensions: the impact of environmental degradation on children; actions to address this impact; and the backdrop of underlying causes against which all actions must be viewed: poverty in the developing countries, unsustainable consumption patterns in the industrialised countries.

Although the need for global- and national-level action to improve the macro-environment is recognised, actions which lead to the improvement of the micro- and meso-environment (household and community) are primarily stressed. Such actions have the well-being of children and women as the ultimate objective, and are essentially achievable with social mobilisation and advocacy, in order to catalyse the required change in societal perception that any sustained alleviation of environmental problems required. Aspects of various interventions are considered with regard to their effect on children and the environment. Examples are provided from UNICEF country programmes. The discussion includes the following elements:

1. Alleviation of women's (and children's) work load regarding household fuel, and improvement of household fuel problems by various methods.
2. Increase of household food security through environmentally sustainable means.
3. A holistic approach towards water and sanitation activities.
4. An integrated approach to the population issue encompassing child survival, women's development, family planning as part of maternal and child health services.
5. Education and information dissemination, social mobilisation and advocacy.

In all cases, popular participation is stressed, and emphasis is placed on achievability and sustainability. Finally, the relationships between the various activities and their effects on children, women and the environment are shown in a schematic framework.

Security in Agriculture and Biodiversity
by Irene Dankelman, Vandana Shiva, Vir Singh and Biju Negi

Biodiversity is an essential condition for present and future food security. In this context biodiversity should be considered in its broadest sense: a diversity of (eco)systems, of species and of varieties.

Although throughout the UNCED process protection and management of land resources and conservation of biological diversity have been identified as major issues, no specific attention has been given during the preparations for the Conference to the role of Women and Children in conservation and management of biodiversity and food security in agriculture.

This study indicates that in the farming system the role of women and children in sustaining biodiversity is essential. They contribute to the management of the surrounding forests, cattle and agricultural lands. They carry biomass between the different components of the system, have an extensive knowledge of species and varieties and play a crucial role in seed selection. In the village, where external influences are still

limited, men do assist in many agricultural tasks. The division of labour is far less prevalent than in villages in transformation. It was observed on the other hand that in an area where agricultural technology has been introduced, not only does gender differentiation increase, but biodiversity decreases seriously. These observations should have implications for (bio)technological developments, technology introduction, conservation and agricultural policies.

Food Security with reference to activities in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
by Sekai Holland

The Association of Women's Clubs (AWC), Zimbabwe, is 41 years old this year and has a membership of around 45,000 members. Its main objective is skills training for rural and urban women who did not have the opportunity to complete their formal education.

There are three structures that make up the AWC: the bureaucratic structure made up of full time staff headed by the Director; the elected body headed by the National Chairperson, who is the head of the organization; and the Clubs themselves which form the Association.

The AWC has eight programmes one of which is the Forestry or Environmental one. This is in three components which are: nurseries, woodlots and courses in environmental awareness.

The case study consists of a summary of the AWC's environmental Programme as it relates to the day to day lives of women and children in Zimbabwe. This summary is in a series of photographs with explanatory captions.

The impact of this environmental programme is explained through suggestions from the AWC participants about strategies that have assisted in their understanding development.

The AWC is being restructures through a series of internal evaluation workshops and seminars to incorporate the various AWC programmes into a coherent whole, with the environment becoming the cultural component of the skills training.

Women, Children and Forest Resources in Africa: case studies and issues
by Paula J Williams

Throughout the developing world, deforestation critically affects people's daily lives. Loss of tree cover increases the burden of obtaining forest resources, particularly fuelwood, and water. As these resources become scarce, women and children often spend more time or income to obtain them. This environmental degradation leads to lower standards of living and poverty, especially for women and children.

A collaborative project sponsored eight case studies on women's participation in forestry activities in Africa: Kenya, Sudan, Zanzibar, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal. Children have been involved in some of these projects and the case studies examined constraints to women's participation, and strategies developed to overcome these constraints. A workshop of non-governmental organizations discussed the case studies and other relevant experiences. This paper reviews the major issues and recommendations from the studies and the workshop.

Forestry policies must consider the wide range of forest resources, including women and children. such a shift in focus calls for a more participatory approach to forest development and management, from grassroots to international levels, including the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. More women are needed to work in forestry. Additional recommendations are made, concerning training, information dissemination, technology, land tenure, integrating forestry with other development activities, and other issues.

African Women's Indigenous Knowledge in the Management of Natural Resources
by Rosemary Jommo

It is now widely accepted that hitherto pursued development strategies in Africa, far from bringing the expected widespread benefits, have generally resulted in socio-economic crises, a seriously compromised resource base and environmental degradation. A major vehicle for these strategies has been education, science and technology models that were premised on a vacuum on the part of the recipients. Knowledge of local environments that had sustained communities through centuries has been systematically marginalized in colonial and post-colonial policies.

That women are key resource managers as they go about the business of sustaining households has been

adequately documented. That they have historically done this on the basis of knowledge which is indigenous to them and their communities has received scant appreciation by development thinkers and planners.

A project presently under way at the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI) aims at documenting and legitimizing this knowledge in relation to women's roles as managers of natural resources in both traditional and contemporary contexts. The thinking which inspires this project is that strategies towards sustainable development should start at the indigenous knowledge-base of grassroots communities. Women are acknowledged to be important repositories of this knowledge in the different spheres of community life.

The Women, Environment and Development Network (WEDNET) is evolving as not only a conceptual and methodological challenge to the researchers, but a significant context for empowerment of women at the grassroots as confidence in their knowledge is rekindled and their self-worth enhanced.

River Basin Development Policy and Women: a case study from the Senegal River Valley
by Michael M. Horowitz and Muneera Salem-Murdock

The case study examines how current management policy of two large dams on the Senegal River will negatively affect the well-being of hundreds of thousands of women, men and children, and threaten the environmental base on which a complex production system depends. The river basin organization plans markedly to reduce the annual flood which permits recession farming, floodplain herding, and fishing The resultant degraded environment and massive impoverishment will accelerate the outmigration of men, leaving the bulk of productive labour to be supplied by women and children. The organization believes that the expansion of irrigated perimeters will compensate for the lost production on smallholdings, but this expansion is extraordinarily costly and may take more than a generation to achieve. Moreover, women are denied membership in tenants' and water-user associations and lack access to social and jural mechanisms necessary for effective management of irrigated plots. Reduction of the flood will also lead to deforestation, a fuelwood crisis and to a lowered water table. Women's income and household nutrition will decline because the lowered aquifer will unduly raise the costs of watering their gardens, and women and children will have to labour more to provide water for other domestic uses. Finally, commercial activities of women will also be negatively affected: women are currently responsible for local marketing of milk, fish and vegetable products, all of which will decline with the suppression of the flood.

There is a solution. A controlled release from the reservoir replicating the natural floods would enhance the environmental base and maintain the smallholder productions system, while at the same time permitting river waters to be used for hydropower and irrigation. If the management policy is changed, the Senegal Valley will shift from being another instance of disastrous planning to being a model for sustainable, equitable, gender-sensitive economic growth throughout the developing world.

Water for Life
by Soon-Young Yoon

Women's participation and empowerment is a central issue in an ecological approach to water and sanitation problems. It is also a strategic means to ensuring an environmentally healthy future for children. The global ecosystem is continually changing, so that development, itself, introduces life-threatening forces and increased population growth. In such a situation social movements such as women's movements must be concerned with sustainable environmentally sound development so that they can support, lead, inform or challenge policy changes.

Women's participation in water and sanitation projects and the protection of water resources is often the starting point of rebuilding environmentally degraded ecosystems. However, to ensure sustainable development, water projects should be planned in the context of total ecosystems. This paper proposes a starting point for conceptualizing such an ecosystem which takes into account issues of gender inequality and the special needs of children. It maintains that at all levels—from microecology of the community to the global water-ecological system, planning "intersectorally" is essential.

The complex relationships between water and other development problems is highlighted when looking at health statistics. These indicate trends towards "maladaptation" of populations and "downward spirals" in many countries where cuts in social services have been drastic. The relationship of water to issues such as

food security, fuel, population dynamics, water consumption patterns, urbanization and toxic chemicals and wastes is intricate, but manageable as long as policies and planning adapt to community needs and resources.

The integration of women into water and sanitation projects is not new, and case examples from Africa, Asia and other regions provide insights into "lessons learned". The strategies are critically reviewed from the point of view of policy and planning, technology development and transfer, and social mobilization. The paper concludes with recommendations concerning the integration of women and children's concerns into the United Nations Seven Point strategy on water.

Leather Tanning in India: Poison, Pollution and Livelihood
by Renu Wadehra

Set in the background of Ambur and Kanpur in India examines how tanning industry is affecting inter alia the environment and the people.

The main effect of tanning pollution is to foul the air, water courses, the health of workers and neighbourhood residents. Ironically the wanton destruction of natural resource base is now putting strains on the availability of chloride-free water, an essential input for tanning.

The tanning industry has sacrificed environment for short term gains. To correct the paradox, the paper pursues several quasi-market based tools such as eco-labelling and tradeable permits as well as making available easy credit for technical improvement. The paper doubts whether the industry would be willing to internalise all the environmental costs. However, a beginning can certainly be made in concert with trade, government, consumer and community groups.

Indigenous Women and the Environment: the case of the Native American Woman
by Patricia Bellanger

Indian people understand the necessity of the protection of Mother Earth. We know that Mother Earth is the bearer of life on earth as we are the bearers of the life of our Tribes. And this is how we understand our ties as Indian women to Mother Earth.

As Indian women look at environmental damage, we study how that damage will affect our children. For example, how nitrates in the water will affect a nursing mother and the child.

The water studies we bring were done by Indian women to assess the contamination and the possible health effects of technical development of private industry in or near Indian reservations.

We are using these water studies to educate our own Tribes about the damage to try to stop further contamination and to develop clean up techniques of the damage already documented.

Indian people keep our traditional ways and respect and rejoice our Mother Earth. We, all the peoples of Mother Earth, must look at traditional strategies to make our Mother whole, again. We intend to discuss traditional, environmentally safe development of resources using traditional methods of educating the people about making Mother Earth clean again.

Consumption Patterns of the North - the Cause of Environmental Destruction and Poverty in the South
by Maria Mies

Contrary to many official statements, the cause of environmental destruction and poverty, particularly of women and children, does not lie in the South but in the world system, based on a philosophy of unending growth, in which about 80% of the world's resources and riches are consumed by about 20% of the world's population. These 20% live mainly in the North and they are also responsible for the production of the largest amount of waste, of air and water pollution etc. This paper shows that a concept of development, still based on the model of limitless economic growth and the consumption patterns of the North cannot but lead to further ecological destruction and further poverty, not only in the South, but increasingly also in the North. All serious efforts to half these processes, therefore, have to focus on a change of lifestyle and consumption patterns of the North. The first policy requirements are to give up the myth of "catching up development" and to encourage a drastic reduction in consumption patterns in the rich countries and classes, also for the sake of women and children there.

Industrial Pollution and its Effects on Women and Children
by Hamid Farabi

This paper projects the main pollution problems in the Caribbean and offers some recommendations to overcome them. It is concerned with such issues as the pollution of the Caribbean Sea, the spoiling of beaches and the destruction of the coral reefs.

Some islands are very industrialised, for instance Trinidad, which has over 800 industries. These include oil, chemical, sugar, breweries, iron and steel, cement industries, etc.

Rivers, streams and waterways draining into the sea are constantly polluted by industrial waste, quarrying and by fertilisers and pesticides. There are no facilities for the disposal of dangerous and toxic wastes.

In some rivers dissolved oxygen has been completely depleted so that no marine life can be expected to survive. On the side of these extremely polluted rivers, land is cultivated to grow vegetables, which absorb the various pollutants.

Air pollution may not seem to be as grave as land and marine pollution in small islands. However, it has tremendous effects on plants, animals and people especially when the effect is chronic.

These environmental problems and many others exist and continue to grow mainly due to ignorance and the absence of comprehensive guidelines for pollution control, as well as a lack of environmental laws, regulations, policies and standards.

This paper emphasizes the effects of environmental pollution on people, especially on women and children, as well as the domestic pollutants used daily at home.

Women, Water and Childhood Diarrhoea: case study of an Egyptian Village
by Shafika Saleh Nasser

The situation of domestic water supply in Kombera village, the microbiological contamination of water and its role in causing diarrhoea, were investigated in the period between 1985 and 1986. Data analysis showed that most of the women drew subsoil water by hand pumps and stored it in different containers for subsequent use. Most of the stored water was markedly contaminated especially that obtained from outdoor sources.

The gross contamination of water was reported to the local governmental health authorities and discussed with the village women. The need for change was urgent. Accordingly, a new water system (deep well) was introduced in 1986. By now it satisfies most of the village need of drinking water.

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